Secure and smooth carve-out directly into the cloud

Extraction and migration of a Dynamics 365 tenant from on-prem to the Azure cloud

KION Battery Systems (KBS), founded as a joint venture between KION GROUP AG and BMZ Holding GmbH, has been manufacturing various types of lithium-ion batteries for industrial trucks in Karlstein am Main since 2020. In 2022, production was expanded to include the manufacture of 24-volt batteries for use in electrified warehouse equipment.

The KBS production facility is located at the headquarters of the BMZ group of companies. KBS uses Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain Management and was given a client in BMZ Germany's locally hosted Dynamics 365 system. Now it was to be removed from this on-prem system, primarily to benefit from more flexibility and optimization potential in its own KBS environment. Sven Mahn IT was commissioned with the planning and realization of this carve-out.

The project started in August 2023 and the aim was not only to move KBS to an independent system, but also to combine this with the move to the Azure cloud. No process changes or optimizations were planned. Instead, the objective was that users of the system should not notice any differences as a result of the change-over.

First, an Azure environment was set up, into which the application status and database were copied from the existing on-prem system. The masking of sensitive data from other companies ensured a clean separation of data. In addition, the technical infrastructure of both companies had to be separated and a separate Azure environment created for KBS.

Connected systems, such as Bluestar PLM and EoL, were also split into a KBS and a BMZ system. Furthermore, as part of the project, Sven Mahn IT implemented the dox42 document automation system to replace the Lasernet software previously used for report generation.

The validation process was carried out using conference room pilots. The main processes were tested in three CRP rounds to ensure the quality of the implementation. The Sören tool came into play for testing. The test management and execution assistant developed by Sven Mahn IT offers optimal support even for non-routine testers. Thanks to its clarity and intuitive operation, the KBS project team was able to carry out the tests autonomously and the test results were documented. This allowed bugs to be identified quickly and rectified by the team.

The carve-out and lift of the system from on-prem to the cloud was successfully completed in February 2024. By using Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain Management in the Azure Cloud, KBS was able to achieve a significant improvement in terms of performance, scalability and flexibility.

The seamless integration into the Azure platform enables resources to be used more efficiently. In addition, the company now has access to advanced Azure as well as Dynamics 365 features and services to help it grow and scale its business.

"The transition from Dynamics 365 to the Azure Cloud was a significant step forward for our company. The project went extremely smoothly and the result exceeded our expectations. The improved performance and flexibility we have gained from the cloud infrastructure has significantly optimized our business processes. We are extremely satisfied with the way the project progressed and the resulting benefits for our company. Sven Mahn IT are experts that are understanding and down to earth. We were agile together, had fun and were very successful. Hard stumbling blocks were quietly cleared out of the way by our partner of choice, Sven Mahn IT."
Tobias Zierhut, Managing Director KION Battery Systems GmbH

Following the carve-out project, the well-established team from KBS and Sven Mahn IT will move straight into the next phase. Together, optimization opportunities as well as new requirements are identified and implemented in order to fully exploit the potential of Dynamics 365.

"With the milestones achieved and the results of the move to the cloud, we have laid a solid foundation. We are now looking forward to putting the system to optimal use and continuously optimizing it."
Sven Mahn, CEO Sven Mahn IT