axians

Heraeus Holding GmbH

State-of-the-Art IT Systems for Cutting-Edge Technology Innovations

Background

Founded in 1851, the Heraeus technology group is one of Germany's largest family-owned portfolio companies. From its headquarters in Hanau, Germany, it successfully navigates the world in the areas of environmental engineering, energy, health care, mobility and industrial applications. Its portfolio ranges from components to fine-tuned materials systems: they are employed in a wide variety of industries including steel, electronics, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, automotive and telecommunications. A ca. 12,400-strong workforce at over 100 locations generated revenues of EUR 2.0 billion in 2016 (excluding precious metals), with total revenues of EUR 21.5 billion.

In 2014 Heraeus overhauled its legacy systems, migrating to an IBM Power7 environment under the DB2 relational database management system. Back then Heraeus decided in favor of Axians on account of its in-depth expertise with regard to IBM Power systems and extensive experience in major SAP migration projects. Three years later the existing IBM Power environment (8 x IBM Power 740s; Power7 and Power7+) had reached the end of its lifecycle.

Project Requirements & Goals

Thanks to the excellent relationship of trust established in the previous projects, Heraeus again decided in favor of Axians in jointly tackling the replacement of its system environment. The technology refresh was to involve upgrading to the current IBM Power8 process generation in the SAP server area — to match the existing two IBM Power8 systems (Magellan systems, 2xS824). In parallel to operating the classic SAP environment with any-DB (IBM DB2), SAP HANA was to be evaluated. During the first phase, operating the X08 (Solution Manager) and X06 (Java) environments with IBM Power-based HANA was considered.

TASK / GOAL

· Replacement of IBM power systems
· Preparations for SAP technology refreshs
· License optimization
· Update of the administration platform

SOLUTION

· Integration of IBM Power 8 systems
· Evaluation of SAP HANA
· SAP HANA Proof of Concept
· DPCM Update

USE

· Modern and scalable IT landscape: high availability, monitoring, security and scalability
· SAP HANA readyness
· Several advantages in administration thanks to DPCM

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Project Implementation & Outcomes

For Heraeus' new system environment, the experts at Axians developed three variants: a non-HANA approach and two HANA-ready approaches, each based on IBM Power8 scale-out servers. Heraeus decided in favor of the solution recommended by Axians, which distributes the workload among four symmetrically equipped IBM Power8 E850C server systems. Of the 32 cores, 24 are used for AIX. The remaining 8 cores are used for an SAP HANA proof of concept (PoC) in order to then subject the SAP HANA environment to exhaustive testing. Apart from the technical benefits offered by this solution and the advanced know-how of Axians' experts, it was also compelling since it offered the best value for money.

The requisite Linux LPARs for SAP HANA are modeled by IFLs on the machines. IFLs are an attractively priced form of CPU and RAM licensing for Linux on Power. The cores unlocked in the process can either be used for Linux workloads or supplying the VIO servers. The system environment is fully virtualized and covers all components: CPU, storage and I/O adapters.

The replacement of the eight IBM Power 740 systems took place through the end of 2017. The running-in of SAP HANA (X08/X06) is planned for January 2018, following the PoC.

Once this phase is completed Heraeus will have a state-of-the-art, scalable IT environment at its fingertips that fully satisfies its objectives of high availability, monitoring, security, reliability and scalability.

CUSTOMER BRIEF

Heraeus

Company: Heraeus Holding GmbH

Sector: environmental engineering, energy, health care, mobility and industrial applications

Headquarters: Hanau

Founded: 1851

Facts & figures: ca. 12,400-strong workforce at over 100 locations generated revenues of EUR 2.0 billion in 2016

Web: www.heraeus.com

ABOUT AXIANS

The Axians in Germany group is part of VINCI Energies' global brand network for ICT solutions. With its integrated ICT portfolio, the group supports companies, local authorities & public-sector bodies, carriers & service providers alike in modernizing their digital infrastructures and solutions. In our four business lines — IT Infrastructures, IoT & Analytics, Telecoms & Carriers, and Public Software — our consultants, developers and engineers improve the lives of people: by way of cloud and data center infrastructures, cybersecurity, enterprise and broadband networks, IoT solutions, managed services, and leading software for waste management, bulk goods industry, technical services, and local authorities. In an IDG survey on customer satisfaction, Axians was ranked second among Germany's Best Systems Houses in 2018.

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