Background
Headquartered in Erkrath, Germany, TIMOCOM is an IT services company that provides a comprehensive range of logistics services to the 43,000+ companies belonging to its network. Up to 750,000 international vehicle space and freight transport offers are posted in TIMOCOM’s Smart Logistics System every day. Augmented Logistics is the company’s vision and its commitment: Augmented Logistics is the company’s vision and its commitment: TIMOCOM’s mission is to offer digital logistics services that are intelligent, reliable, secure, yet simple. In addition to the original freight and vehicle space smart apps, there are now smart apps for tenders, digital transport order processing, and warehouse space to specification. A combined team of 500+ from over 30 countries works for TIMOCOM at its headquarters near Düsseldorf, in addition to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Founded in 1997 as a start-up, TIMOCOM has transformed into one of the most successful IT companies in the transport and logistics sector.

Project Requirements & Goals
For TIMOCOM, a powerful and stable IT environment is mission-critical so that all logistics services run smoothly and efficiently. Previously, TIMOCOM had relied on an IBM environment comprised of Power8 servers. Yet the warranty period and service agreement were coming to an end. That meant that the time had come to upgrade and future-proof TIMOCOM’s infrastructure. Replacing the software and hardware was intended to boost system performance so that the machines continued to run smoothly and reliably when new customers and services were added. TIMOCOM’s Smart Logistics System must provide for 24/7 availability, meaning it can’t afford any downtimes. That meant migration had to proceed as quickly as possible and not hamper day-to-day operations.

For the conceptual design and implementation of the project, TIMOCOM turned to its trusted partner Axians. Marco Haack, Director IT Infrastructure & Services at TIMOCOM explains: “For us it was clear that we consult the service provider with whom we have established a relationship of trust extending back many years. Axians knows our IT environment and what we need. That’s why we knew that upgrading our IBM Power environment was in expert hands.”

REFERENCE
IBM Power at TIMOCOM GmbH

Digital logistics services provider doubles server performance and masters migration during online operation

TASK / OBJECTIVES
- Procure new IBM Power servers
- Boost performance
- Migrate assets without any downtimes

SOLUTION
- Deployment of two IBM Power9 servers

BENEFITS
- Significant performance boost enabled by IBM Power9 servers
- Reliable, future-proof operation of TIMOCOM’s digital services
IMPLEMENTATION
Since Axians had engineered the conceptual design of TIMOCOM’s existing IBM Power8 environment and integrated it, Axians’ specialists were able to develop an upgrade concept that dovetailed with TIMOCOM’s specific requirements within a minimum of time. TIMOCOM decided in favor of a package consisting of two fully-equipped IBM Power System S924 servers. Axians assumed project management and implementation – from ordering the hardware and installation through to migration and commissioning. TIMOCOM has ca. 90 LPARs (logical partitions for virtual systems), which Axians was able to relocate to the new IBM Power9 servers during live operation, without any disruptions. The entire project proceeded without a hitch; migration was successfully completed within three months of signing the contract. Axians continues to provide hardware support under the service agreement.

PROJECT OUTCOMES
With its IBM Power9 environment, TIMOCOM now has a powerful and stable infrastructure that will enable it to meet the challenges of the coming years head on. TIMOCOM benefits from a substantial performance boost of approx. 45%: the systems now provide for more than enough capacity to integrate new advances and run additional applications. Marco Haack, Director IT Infrastructure & Services at TIMOCOM: “We’re immensely satisfied with the new Power9 environment and how smoothly the system switch went. We were most pleasantly surprised by the fact that migration could be completed during live operation, without any downtime whatsoever.”

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.