

CASE STUDY

From Insolvency Practice through Private Equity to a successful Merger

The Brief

Alvarez & Marsal, a leading insolvency & business turnaround specialist, engaged Ekco on behalf of its client Advent International, a global Private Equity firm with around £90 bn of assets under management.

Advent International had recently purchased IPH and Brammer, two of Europe's largest industrial parts suppliers to create the newly formed Rubix Group.

Ekco were engaged to support a challenging forensic investigation into the highly entwined supplier relationships, and shared systems and services of Brammer's Polish business to prepare for the merger with IPH to form a European innovation and technology hub within the region.

The Solution

Our team travelled to Poland, with a broad brief to interview stakeholders, interrogate systems at the incumbent service provider, assess compliance with the greater Group's standards, and recommend appropriate remedial actions.

The project required us to assess the current situation; secure applications and data; stabilise service availability; and apply standards for support, security and compliance. We would also recommend appropriate remedial actions prior to migrating these applications to the cloud.

Initially we deployed a Converged Cloud Stack, essentially a full function VMware cluster, including storage and all the management tools. This was then built into and shipped in a flight case. This allowed us to simply attach power and network to deliver a fully managed system to remove the reliance on dedicated hardware supporting legacy monolithic applications.



Rubix are Europe's largest supplier of industrial maintenance, repair, and overhaul products and services.

No. of Employees: 8,000+

Project Overview

- Skills Gap Analysis
- Application Assessment
- Security Audit
- PAM Implementation
- Data centre selection process
- Private cloud design, build, and deployment
- Core network integration with public cloud
- Migrated all services, including ERP, to cloud infrastructure

The Outcome



- A **three-year modernisation** project that included ground up **rebuilt of some 150 workloads** in partnership with Brammer's UK and European technology teams.
- **Re-platforming and ongoing management and modernisation** of various infrastructure estates for both group and regional businesses within the newly formed Rubix Group that would position Rubix for the next stage of their evolution.

The Solution (cont.)

Initially we deployed a Converged Cloud Stack, essentially a full function VMware cluster, including storage and all the management tools. This was then built into and shipped in a flight case. This allowed us to simply attach power and network to deliver a fully managed system to remove the reliance on dedicated hardware supporting legacy monolithic applications.

This also positioned the business to take full advantage of more beneficial technologies such as Veeam & Zerto, allowing for the entirety of the estate to be backed up to the cloud and critical applications and workloads replicated to a separate in-country cloud platform.

These workloads would be tested for failover before we ultimately promoted them to become production and swapped replication back to another Tier 3 data centre, removing the reliance on the on-prem management.

The persistent developments and improvements of standardised tooling now allows businesses to build out more resilient and secure solutions more simply, utilising both Private and Public cloud platforms.

Technology such as Veeam and Zerto, along with solid management tools from VMware, allowed us to deliver effectively against challenging situations with relatively small amounts of downtime.

All failovers occurred in a single weekend. Workloads and data were seamlessly trickled into alternative data centres on VMware and Azure platforms without the need for single large data transfers.

This enabled us to virtualise, & V2V, and even to migrate complex resource-hungry SQL applications with the reassurance that these systems would work first time when cut-over.

Our team have so far delivered these solutions to support complex migrations and extractions within Europe, the UK, the Middle East and the Far East.

