



ARMEX Group is the twentieth largest company in the Czech Republic, with subsidiaries operating across industries including energy, oil and gas, mining, hospitality, and gastronomy.
www.armex.cz

Industry

Energy & Utilities
Oil and Gas

Headquarters

Děčín, Czech Republic

Partner Overview

GAPP System is a highly skilled and experienced advanced technology solutions provider with proven capabilities in designing, deploying and supporting complex legacy IT and cloud environments.
www.gapp.cz

VMware footprint

VMware vSphere®
VMware vSAN™
Dell EMC VxRail

ARMEX Group Creates Capacity for Growth with VMware Hybrid Cloud Investment

Aging technology limits business growth. To reduce the demands on its IT team and increase capacity for expansion, ARMEX Group has modernized its network infrastructure with a hybrid cloud model using VMware solutions. By moving to a hyperconverged infrastructure managed by VMware partner GAPP System, ARMEX Group can now both maximize service availability—even when faced with major outages—and reduce management complexity.

Delivering excellence in a diverse range of industries

ARMEX Group is one of the largest companies in the Czech Republic, generating around USD 1.1 billion in annual revenue. The group is comprised of multiple subsidiaries across various industries, including ARMEX ENERGY, a major power and gas supplier, and ARMEX OIL, which is involved in the oil product business and operates a network of filling stations. In addition, ARMEX Group has business divisions in mining, hospitality, and gastronomy.

To run its expanding enterprise efficiently and enable future growth, ARMEX Group needed to modernize its approach to IT.



Consolidating and modernizing siloed IT systems

Each ARMEX Group company was operating its own, separate IT infrastructure, located across multiple data centres and using aging technology. This siloed approach was inefficient, and many of the components that ARMEX Group relied on to keep its IT network running had become increasingly obsolete, while some of its disk arrays and servers dated back to 2005. This left the company vulnerable to service outages.

“A reliable IT infrastructure is essential to keep our businesses running. Any downtime would cause us substantial financial losses,” explains Karel Jičínský, ARMEX Group CIO. “Our IT team had to focus on keeping the siloed infrastructures running and did not have time to develop new services to support the group business objectives.”

In 2020, ARMEX Group decided to consolidate and modernize its IT environments, starting with ARMEX ENERGY and ARMEX OIL. It wanted to build a single platform that would increase digitalization, meet the latest security standards, and enable the continuous availability of both internal and customer-facing services.

In addition to improving security and reliability, ARMEX Group wanted to invest in key IT systems to reinforce its excellent customer service reputation and drive its competitive edge.

VMware Partner delivers failsafe support, simply managed

ARMEX Group enlisted information systems specialist GAPP System to identify its key requirements and set objectives for the new solution. The chosen software needed to improve service availability while simplifying management and maintenance.

GAPP System suggested a hyperconverged infrastructure that would combine all the traditional data centre elements—hardware, storage, and management—in one integrated solution. It recommended VMware as the technology partner of choice, using the VMware vSphere® initially, followed by VMware vSAN™ storage virtualization software to manage the entire IT infrastructure throughout its lifecycle.

The VMware software-defined storage technology would run on Dell EMC VxRail as the hardware platform, and GAPP System would provide proactive technical support.

“VMware provides the resources we need to run our business-critical systems and adopt new technologies while freeing IT resources for other tasks.”

Karel Jicinsky, ARMEX Group CIO

“We selected VMware because of our long-term positive experience with VMware vSphere. The implementation of VMware vSAN is a major step forward on our infrastructure modernization journey, and will simplify management while improving availability,” says Jičínský. “The services we received were highly professional and helped us significantly reduce the risk associated with the migration of key enterprise systems and the transition to a new infrastructure.”

To provide the required availability, GAPP System installed the hyperconverged infrastructure solution across two locations, making it easier to schedule downtime for each data centre. The new solution integrated with existing systems (including vSphere) and was tested for potential hardware component and network communication failures, proving that by leveraging vSAN stretched cluster technology with this active-active approach it was resilient enough to overcome the complete outage of an entire location.



Liberating IT resources to drive business forward

The new environment has significantly reduced overall management complexity and will enable the agile implementation of new technologies to support ARMEX Group.

By selecting a centralized data centre solution and outsourcing system maintenance, ARMEX Group has freed up more than 20 percent of its IT resources to focus on developing new services that support business objectives. Meanwhile, GAPP System is continuously monitoring the infrastructure, and its team of technical experts will respond immediately at the slightest hint of a potential issue.

With the VMware solution and proactive partner support in place, ARMEX Group can ensure the continuous availability of mission-critical systems to avoid costly outages. For example, a fuel transport dispatch control going down would paralyze ARMEX OIL's logistics, while ARMEX ENERGY relies on customer-facing online systems and power trading applications to remain functional.

In addition to increased reliability, building a versatile, easily scalable environment makes it simple for ARMEX Group to increase network, storage, and compute resources as needed, and to deploy new applications, encouraging flexible business growth. All while improving control over the cost of its IT services, with savings of around 20 percent compared to renewing the solution as originally designed.

Looking ahead

With ARMEX OIL and ARMEX ENERGY now successfully migrated to a hybrid cloud model, ARMEX Group is planning to roll out its modernization strategy across all its subsidiaries.

ARMEX Group's future app development will now take place through the VMware solution, focusing initially on increasing security through the centralized management of endpoints and network visualization and automation, while creating a modern workspace for ARMEX Group employees.

"VMware provides the resources we need to run our business-critical systems and adopt new technologies while freeing IT resources for other tasks," Jičínský concludes. "By supporting easy, effective development, it will facilitate the group's potential future expansion."



ARMEX Group has modernized its infrastructure using a **#VMware #vSAN** hybrid cloud approach implemented by @GAPP with @DellTechCzech, giving ARMEX Group IT teams 20% more capacity to drive business innovation.