

Contship Italia Upgrades its Mission Critical Enterprise Storage for VMware with Infinidat



Contship Italia Group is the Italian leader in container terminal logistics and intermodal solutions. It has a large network of maritime container terminals in La Spezia, Ravenna, Salerno and Tangier in Morocco. Part of the Eurokai Group, the Company offers services to key customers including the world's largest shipping lines, such as Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC).

The IT services specialists within Contship Italia based at La Spezia Container Terminal (LSCT) are responsible for driving through enhanced technical innovation and service improvements to external and internal customers, as well as meeting data compliance goals. When its incumbent enterprise storage system began to fall short of performance, capacity, and availability requirements the Contship Italia team needed to upgrade. They focused on a swift and seamless migration to an innovative enterprise data storage solution which would meet its' current and future goals.

The Challenge: To Simplify Data Storage Management and Support Business Growth

Faced with ambitious Group-wide growth projections for expanding new handling capacity, including gateway and transshipment capabilities, the existing data storage system at Contship Italia was reaching its end-of-life stage.

In early February 2021, Contship Italia began looking to replace its incumbent all-flash array data storage technology. The support for the old system was ending and it required dedicated management by a full-time engineer. The team at Contship was looking to migrate to a more autonomous solution and an easier to manage enterprise storage infrastructure, so that their skilled staff could focus on other business critical services.

Although not quite at the petabyte data storage scale yet, Contship required a higher performing, always available environment that could scale quickly. Fundamental to the decision-making process Contship was seeking a solution which could provide zero-RPO and RTOs on the company's mission critical business services, without interrupting any customer facing services. Infinidat's Active-Active replication provides these exact requirements -it is not only faster from a latency perspective than other vendors, but it also provides very predictable high performance and scalability for mission-critical workloads.

"During our procurement process we evaluated two other leading competitors but found their solutions did not represent a true active-active enterprise system," explained Mario Scimone, who is responsible for LSCT Infrastructure within Contship Italia IT Services Group. "We worked closely with our senior management to reassure them that a move towards a more innovative solution like Infinidat's InfiniBox, with the lowest TCO in the industry, was the platform we needed to embrace."



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Mario Scimone *Responsible for LSCT Infrastructure*

Solution Advantages for Contship.

INFINIDAT



Substantial cost savings of 40%



An easy to manage and maintain infrastructure - "Set it and forget it"



Higher performance and lower latency

The Solution: 'Set It and Forget It' with Infinidat and VMware

Following a rigorous procurement process Contship Italia purchased two InfiniBox® storage arrays which are in two separate locations, approximately 500 metres apart. Ensuring synchronous replication of 450Tb and running the latest VMware solution, the system is connected by fibre optics. Utilising Infinidat's flexible consumption model meant Contship Italia also paid only for the storage they needed and can grow it when required.

Fully integrated with VMware's Storage Cluster (vMSC) and Infinidat's InfiniBox Active-Active replication, the new solution provides 100% application and data availability for Contship Italia's virtualised environments. The VMware integration allows a single cluster of physical host resources to operate across the two-separate data centers. In addition to these benefits, Contship Italia has also seen higher performance, lower latency, and 100% availability. The simplified management of its storage environment also means many time-consuming and repetitive storage-related tasks are eliminated.

"The deployment of Infinidat's solution with VMware's enhancement was extremely easy, and we saw significant cost savings of over 40% on implementation," continued Mario Scimone. "The whole configuration process took less than 20 days from start to finish before it was fully switched over with no downtime on our systems. The installed VMware integration also ensured we could control everything online during the transfer."

The Result: Simple Migration which Exceeded Expectations

The Proof of Concept (POC) results were delivered almost immediately as the live data for the new surveillance system at the large shipping La Spezia Container Terminal wharf could be uploaded onto the new Infinidat systems. Using 250TB of available storage offering both volume and performance for the team, the cameras track crucial live operations at the container yard directly from the central control room.

Mario Scimone continued, "The predictive support at Infinidat is instantaneous and excellent. We felt safe and secure from the moment we switched systems. Our local Infinidat Manager also keeps us informed of new software releases and upgrades, which they take care of remotely, so we are continuously ahead of the curve."

Contship Italia has seen a significant difference in its day-to-day operations, freeing up at least one full time employee who had been dedicated to monitoring and managing the previous storage environment. In addition, with the new VMware capabilities already built-in, the team can easily prepare for larger volume surges at the wharf, integrate other activities and scale with Infinidat's distinctive simplicity.

The VMware Integration: Simplicity itself!

"The integration of the VMware platform was simplicity itself; each configuration was easy, and we could just plug it in and leave it to function/work. No problems, no dramas, no compatibility issues – everything was pre-tested, and all connected by just six cables," said Mario Scimone.

In addition to these benefits Contship Italia has also upgraded its VMware plug-in solution to Version 6.7, with its improved features. Alongside the Active-Active solution this has meant that all data is continuously updated, replicated and in-sync for business continuity priorities.

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Future Plans: Increase Storage Capacity and Group Wide Infrastructure Consolidation

Contship Italia will require more storage space in future and has an extra 100TBs available to switch on at any moment. Other Group sites are also evaluating their current storage infrastructure and looking to consolidate their data storage needs on Infinidat's platform.

"With all our surveillance systems on the InfiniBox we have seen no compromise to performance levels," Scimone concluded. "With Infinidat's data storage solution we have been able to significantly increase our days of filmed/held camera footage to 60 days, which has made a huge difference across the company."

To learn more about how Infinidat can help your organisation expand or consolidate your data storage, visit [Infinidat.com](https://www.infinidat.com).