EDP Group is a leading multinational energy company focused on the creation of value, innovation, and sustainability. Operating in over 14 countries, on four continents and with a workforce of more than 12,000 professionals, EDP is the largest producer, distributor and supplier of electricity in Portugal. It is a leading energy company in particular for gas distribution in the Iberia region. Currently, EDP supplies electricity to almost 11 million customers and provides service to 1.2 million gas connection points. In addition to this, EDP produces almost 70% of its energy from renewable resources and anticipates it will be 100% carbon neutral by 2030.

“Adapting to change has always been our main driver here at EDP. To achieve this, we have to work within an agile enterprise network system with more efficient, smarter and sustainable solutions,” explained Jorge Domingos, IT Infrastructures and Capacity Manager at EDP. “To do this thoroughly, we needed to process very large volumes of data. The growth in our data storage needs were fundamental to the success of our IT infrastructure and so it was necessary to invest in the most advanced technology available.”

EDP currently has two high-performance data centers, as well as a highly qualified IT team that provides a wide range of enterprise-level services to its associates and customers. This strategic investment has driven the implementation of innovative technologies, such as a complete data virtualisation environment with integrated VMware solutions.

The Challenge: Supporting EDP’s exponential data growth

“Before deploying Infinidat’s solution, we had experienced a data storage need that grew exponentially - we were dealing with scales of one petabyte a year,” explained Jorge Domingos.

Although petabytes are now a unit of measurement that is considered common in enterprise data storage terms, initially EDP experienced some challenges in managing such significant volumes of data. “We realised quickly that we needed new storage arrays that could provide us with sufficient capacity to ensure the practical management of growth without compromising on performance. In addition, it was absolutely critical that we had two data centers that could safeguard the disaster recovery of all our systems.”

EDP decided to look for a storage solution that would be able to deal with the unprecedented data growth. Given the size and requirements of its project, the company launched an exhaustive due diligence process. “We have been large enterprise storage consumers for many years,” explained Jorge Domingos. “For this reason, we have an understanding of the existing solutions available, as well as the portfolios of the main players in the market.”
“Infinidat’s unique disruptive business model, flexible pricing and cutting-edge technology made it an easy decision to commit to the InfiniBox platform,” he continued.

The Solution: A worry-free petabyte implementation

After selecting Infinidat’s solution, EDP implemented two InfiniBox® arrays, each of them located in the respective data centers, and each one with an initial agreed data storage capacity of up to one petabyte.

EDP use this solution for virtualisation workloads, under VMware’s vSphere Enterprise virtualisation solutions, fully integrated with the Infinidat platform. EDP experienced a hassle-free implementation with the support of Infinidat’s team and technology solutions. Excluding the ordering process, and from the first moment the team entered the data center, everything took place in only two months.

The Result: Enhanced performance, ultra-low latency, zero-touch solution - a ‘set it and forget it’ approach

According to EDP the 360-degree experience with Infinidat has been very positive at every level. “Infinidat exceeded our expectations for very demanding workloads. With the company’s innovative data storage solutions, we experienced high performance, ultra-low latency, ease of integration and advanced customer support – all within budget. It has enabled EDP to deliver a better customer experience. As we grow, we are confident we can continue enjoying the benefits of Infinidat’s low total cost of ownership,” continued Jorge Domingos.