

Manufacturing

Satisfying growing appetites for delicious goods

Inalca

To achieve rapid business growth while keeping back-office operations running smoothly, meat producer Inalca moved its IT infrastructure to two new data centers built with Lenovo ThinkSystem servers, powered by 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors—enabling timely deliveries to delight customers.

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Lenovo

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Who is Inalca?

Part of the Cremonini Group, Inalca is one of the leading meat producers in Italy and provides commercial customers with a range of delicious and sustainable raw, canned, and cured meat products. The company also works to promote Italian products abroad through its international distribution company, Inalca Food and Beverage. Established in 1963, Inalca operates 16 production plants in Italy and 25 distribution centers around the world. Employing 8,200 people, Inalca achieved a total consolidated revenue of €2.99 billion in 2023.



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The Challenge

Each year, Inalca produces 50,000 tons of meat, 100,000 tons of hamburgers, 45,000 tons of cured meats and 160 million pre-sliced cured meat packs. Known worldwide for its succulent premium-quality products, the company is an industry leader and supplies some of the most famous restaurants in the world.

Manufacturing, processing, quality-checking, and distributing perishable food products on an international scale is incredibly complex. To thrive, Inalca relies on a comprehensive set of manufacturing, distribution, and quality control applications—each of which generate tremendous volumes of data. Any unplanned downtime would significantly impact production schedules—potentially increasing the risk of fines for late product deliveries.

With appetite for its premium meats growing, Inalca set out to ensure that the IT infrastructure underpinning its core applications could meet surging demand and data volumes.



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“Any disruption to meat processing or distribution could cause products to spoil and, ultimately, go to waste—so ensuring high availability for our business systems is also a key enabler of our sustainability strategy.”

Gianni Zini

IT Manager, Inalca

Robust, reliable IT infrastructure

To support always-on manufacturing, Inalca expanded its existing three-tier infrastructure across two data centers by implementing a brand-new software-defined environment running on Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers, powered by 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors and connected to Lenovo ThinkSystem DE2000H storage.

Each data center comprises a virtualized DataCore storage node, two Microsoft Hyper-V compute nodes, and 100TB of total disk space. Equipped with best-of-breed Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, the new servers provide excellent performance and reliability for over 300 virtual machines—including mission-critical production, manufacturing, sales, and finance applications.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2
powered by 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon®
Scalable processors
Lenovo ThinkSystem DE2000H

Software

DataCore
Microsoft Hyper-V

Achieving a seamless deployment

Because it operates production facilities and distribution centers around the clock, Inalca enlisted the help of business partner [Versya](#) to avoid disruption to business-as-usual activities during the deployment. Versya recommended gradually migrating production systems from the legacy environment to the new infrastructure, while running mission-critical applications in parallel at both environments. For added resiliency, Inalca worked with Versya to establish three disaster recovery environments.

“The deployment approach proposed by Versya and supported by Lenovo worked exceptionally well for our business,” explains Gianni Zini, IT Manager at Inalca. “We completed the transition over a period of three months and, most importantly, without any service interruption. As a result, we were able to keep our facilities running at full production at all times.”

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“Working with Versya and Lenovo was a really positive experience. Versya understood that we needed to keep our business running at full capacity during the IT upgrade and they went the extra mile to achieve this. With Versya’s support and expertise, we were able to go-live with the new datacenters as planned—and without any issues.”

Gianni Zini

IT Manager, Inalca

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Results

After enhancing its IT infrastructure with Lenovo and Intel solutions, Inalca now enjoys excellent reliability, around-the-clock availability, and seamless scalability. If Inalca encounters any IT disruption, for example from a natural disaster or a cyberattack, the company can quickly recover its core data and applications to keep manufacturing facilities running at full production.

With its core applications running smoothly 24/7, Inalca can deliver to its retail customers on time, every time—helping to boost revenues and delight customers.



24/7 availability for key applications



Helps ensure on-time customer deliveries



Enables seamless scalability



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“Refreshing our IT infrastructure with Lenovo and Versya has practically eliminated the risk of disruption to our manufacturing, processing, and distribution operations. For our customers, this means we can deliver the high-quality goods they expect on time, every time, and satisfy increasing demand for our products and services.”

Gianni Zini

IT Manager, Inalca

Why **Lenovo**?

Inalca targeted flexibility, scalability, and simplicity when looking to enhance and expand its IT infrastructure. Establishing a software-defined environment with Lenovo, Intel, DataCore, and Hyper-V solutions proved to be the best fit for its unique needs.

“We really liked that Lenovo and DataCore solutions make IT management effortless and are completely vendor agnostic,” explains Zini. “We also selected Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 servers because they came equipped with powerful 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, capable of supporting our compute-intensive and data-heavy workloads now and in the years ahead.”





Partner perspective: Versya

“For a business like Inalca, a reliable, robust, and powerful IT infrastructure is vital to keep manufacturing, production and delivery schedules running like clockwork. We recommended Lenovo, DataCore and Intel solutions because we knew they could deliver the compute resources, scalable storage and 24/7 uptime that Inalca needs to drive growth and ensure excellent customer service.”

Andrea Gnudi
North East Sales Director, Versya

VERSya

How can food manufacturers keep production lines running smoothly?

Inalca worked with Versya to deploy a new IT infrastructure powered by Lenovo and Intel® solutions—enabling 24/7 operations.

Explore Lenovo ThinkSystem solutions

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