interxion™

COLOCATION SET HEIDELBERGCEMENT ON STRATEGIC PATH FOR THE FUTURE

HEIDELBERGCEMENT

Challenges:

- Ensure available, secure, and efficient applications to modernise international IT infrastructure and maximise business sustainability

- Position company as the industry leader by demonstrating innovation and maturity

Solutions:

- Expanded operation in colocation data centre

- Gained access to additional technologies

Results:

- Maximised availability and fail-safe operation with transparent failover between cross-connected data centres

- Expert support from the leading partner for data centre operations, ensuring security, performance, quality, and long-term business evolution

HeidelbergCement, one of the world's largest building materials companies leading in aggregates, cement and ready-mixed concrete, operates 3,000 sites across 60 countries. Despite the intensity of cement production, the company fostered a successful business through an efficient and innovative production process, development of new products and the use of alternative raw materials and fuels. The company needs a fail-safe, real-time IT infrastructure to ensure its international production and distribution is optimised at all times.

Ensuring Agile Productivity

HeidelbergCement's operations require alignment across its dozens of sites to ensure sharp allocation of resources. Not only is cement production challenging, transporting it around the world also requires smart and fast planning otherwise the company would incur additional costs. "This is why we are continuously optimising our logistics processes and modernising production planning," said Volker Förster, Head of Global Data Center Operations at HeidelbergCement. "Our objective is to decide as quickly as possible which HGV [heavy goods vehicle] is to transport which delivery to which customer. The logistics data of the HGVs are therefore permanently in real-time to evaluate the data as quickly as possible. This is the only way we are able to reduce the time required and transport costs. The underlying infrastructure for these real-time calculations with continuous availability and minimal latency is provided by Interxion."

The company already operated their own data centre at their headquarters in Heidelberg, and colocated some hardware at Interxion in Frankfurt. As demands for availability, security and efficiency increased, the company expanded its presence in Interxion's data centre to meet its growing needs. "Both the price/performance ratio, reliable services and pragmatic collaboration over the past five years have assured us of making the right choice," explains Volker Förster. "The location was also a positive factor as the systems can easily be migrated from one data centre to the other in Frankfurt. And a WAN connection ensures ongoing data backup, providing maximum failsafe reliability."

Constant, Quick Coverage

While the company continues developing an IT infrastructure best-fit for their long-term business goals, all of its applications requiring 24/7 run-time will sit in the Interxion data centre in Frankfurt and their data centre in Heidleberg will remain open in tandem with Interxion operations. HeidelbergCement sites across the globe can connect to the closest Interxion data centre, spanning 11 countries, allowing the company to run applications via Interxion's cross-connects much faster than if connecting only to Heidelberg. Applications vital to the corporate process, such as the central ERP, email and office systems, all run non-stop at the colocation centre.

"Thanks to Interxion, we benefit from maximum availability, optimum security and increased performance," Volker Förster said. "In addition, we can now further optimise our workflows to align them with the company's strategy. This gives us a higher degree of maturity. We rely on an external provider whose core business is the operation of modern, efficient and fail-safe data centres. We could not achieve these quality and service levels on our own."

Positioned for Long-Term Evolution

The expansion operated by HeidelbergCement in Frankfurt leverages cross-connection to speed and secure access to the company's crucial applications, ensuring an evolving, fail-safe operation. Strengthening its partnership with Interxion provides HeidelbergCement with trustworthy, cutting-edge expertise for building IT infrastructure to meet their business goals. "Certainly, one doesn't know what the future will bring, but together with Interxion we will successfully overcome all challenges", continues Volker Förster. "Whether Industry 4.0, consolidation, integrative concepts for production planning or the use of synergistic effects: as we are operating our core infrastructure at Interxion, we have a reliable partner by our side at all times."

> *The data centre at Interxion will become the essential springboard for realising our growth strategy, meaning we always have a reliable partner at our side.*
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> **Volker Förster**
> Head of Global Data Center Operations, HeidelbergCement