

MANUFACTURING

ILLUSTRATIVE SCENARIO

Exiting the data center without slowing the plants

An industrial manufacturer had a data center lease ending and VMware hosts at end of life. It moved to dedicated KVM on UPC and kept every plant running throughout.

ORGANIZATION

Multi-plant manufacturer

TRIGGER

Data center lease ending

WORKLOADS

ERP tiers, MES integration, files

UPC SERVICES

Single-tenant KVM, UnitedConnect®, DRaaS

The situation

The company ran several plants from a single on-prem data center. ERP, manufacturing execution integrations and file services all lived on VMware hosts close to end of support. The IT team was lean and spread across sites, with no one dedicated to running a hypervisor platform.

The turning point

The landlord confirmed the lease would not be renewed. Rebuilding in a new facility meant buying hardware, renewing VMware and hiring specialists. Leadership wanted a way out that would not touch production schedules on the plant floor.

What was at stake

Production

Plants cannot stop for an IT migration.

Deadline

A fixed lease end date with no extension.

People

No in-house hypervisor or data center specialists.

Illustrative scenario based on typical UPC replatforming engagements. Not a specific customer.

THE APPROACH

How the replatforming unfolded

UPC planned a phased move into a dedicated private cloud, connected to every plant over private links and timed around production schedules.

- 01 Connect the plants**
 Set up private links from each plant with UnitedConnect® to keep ERP latency low.
- 02 Move the easy wins**
 Replatformed file and web services to KVM first, freeing space in the old data center.
- 03 Move ERP in windows**
 Moved ERP application tiers during planned maintenance windows, each with a rollback plan.
- 04 Protect production**
 Added UPC DRaaS for ERP and plant systems, then decommissioned the old data center.

WHAT CHANGED

AREA	BEFORE	AFTER
Facility	Leased data center ending	→ Data center retired on schedule
Hardware	End-of-life VMware hosts	→ Managed, dedicated UPC infrastructure
Plants	Long links to one site	→ Private links via UnitedConnect®
Resilience	No tested DR	→ DRaaS for ERP and plant systems

WHAT'S NEXT

With infrastructure off its plate, the IT team is focusing on plant analytics and connecting selected workloads to public cloud through UnitedConnect®.

Facing a similar decision?

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