

Efficient backups enable IT staff to better support their energy-sector business.

VERITAS™

OVERVIEW

Oil-and-Gas Business Powers Up New Services by Transitioning to the Cloud

For Repsol Sinopec Resources UK Ltd., a disparate and siloed technology infrastructure was inhibiting innovation. The company decided to rationalize applications and begin moving workloads into the cloud. Standardizing data protection at the same time also made sense. Repsol Sinopec Resources UK's new IT architecture reduces the four backup solutions in its legacy environment to just one. This change freed up a significant amount of staff time for more innovative activities that better support the business, while improving the company's agility to adjust data protection as the IT environment changes.

DIGITAL TRANSITION FOR AN ENERGY BUSINESS

Repsol Sinopec Resources UK is an oil-and-gas exploration and production company operating in the U.K. North Sea. The business is a joint venture between Spanish integrated natural gas company Repsol and Addax Petroleum UK Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec Group). Repsol Sinopec Resources UK operates 38 oil fields on the U.K. Continental Shelf.

A small IT team manages the company's technology environment across 11 offshore installations and two onshore terminals. "As a company, we have begun embracing digital and cloud-based solutions to make our business more efficient," says Martin Ogden, Head of IT and Digital for Repsol Sinopec Resources UK. To that end, the company has deployed Microsoft 365 for messaging and office productivity workloads, and it stores files shares in OneDrive. Ogden expects Repsol Sinopec Resources UK to continue to increase the role of the cloud in its IT infrastructure, moving more and more data into Microsoft Azure with the goal of enhancing efficiency.

Data protection is top-of-mind in the company's digital transformation. "Data is a key asset for our business," Ogden says. "Even as our data moves to the cloud, backups remain our responsibility. If anything, protecting cloud-based data is even more complicated, since it's outside our traditional data center perimeter."



ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Website: repsolsinopecuk.com

Industry: Energy

Headquarters: Aberdeen, Scotland

Employees: 940

KEY CHALLENGES

Repsol Sinopec Resources UK was running a disparate technology infrastructure across its two onshore locations and 11 offshore oil platforms. Four different data protection solutions were running backups, creating inefficiency for IT staff.

SOLUTION

The company consolidated data protection with Veritas NetBackup™. Now, backups run to Veritas Flex Appliances for both offshore and onshore systems.

BENEFITS

- Significant reduction in IT staff time spent overseeing backup processes
- Higher level of IT innovation enabled by freeing up staff resources
- Confidence in protection for both onshore and offshore data
- Agility to easily modify data protection infrastructure as cloud transition evolves

BACKUP CONSOLIDATION WITH A TRUSTED VENDOR

Before starting the cloud transition, Repsol Sinopec Resources UK had a complex data protection environment. The company used Veritas NetBackup™ to protect all the physical servers, storage, and databases in its data center. It also ran some virtual machines (VMs) in the data center, which it protected using a VM-native backup solution. A different solution from the same vendor protected most of the Nutanix AHV virtual machines on Repsol Sinopec Resources UK's offshore platforms, but the VM-native backup didn't work for all of them. The end result was that Repsol Sinopec Resources UK had a disjointed infrastructure with four backup solutions from three different vendors.

The IT group resolved to reduce those numbers as they moved to the cloud. Ogden cites the time spent managing the different solutions as a motivating factor. Managing the legacy environment was a hassle because staff had to jump around between different toolsets and administrative consoles. In addition, some backups ran offshore, then needed to be brought back onshore. Scheduling and timing those types of jobs across platforms was resource-intensive.

When choosing a partner for standardizing data protection, Repsol Sinopec Resources UK wanted a trusted vendor with a mature solution that could protect all the company's diverse data. IT staff were already familiar and comfortable with Veritas™, because Veritas solutions had been a major component of the company's backup and recovery toolset for two decades. Late last year, they held a workshop with the local Veritas team to talk through the vendor's strategy and R&D roadmap.

As Repsol Sinopec Resources UK considered options for backup storage, agility was key. "Moving our data center infrastructure to Microsoft Azure is an ongoing journey," Ogden says. "We have fully adopted Microsoft Office 365 and moved our traditional file shares into OneDrive and SharePoint. At the same time, our data retention policies and data classifications are changing. We don't know exactly how much data we will need to protect long-term, so we were looking for a flexible backup storage solution that would come along on our cloud journey with us."

The local Veritas team introduced Repsol Sinopec Resources UK to Veritas Flex Appliances, which can run multiple data protection appliances within the same hardware. For example, two media servers and two master servers might utilize the same processors, memory, power, and floor space, while each operates in a completely separate environment. "We really like the containerized approach to backup appliances, which makes it a lot easier to stand up new media and master servers as required," Ogden says.

SECURE DATA, FLEXIBLE PLATFORM ENABLE INNOVATION

Repsol Sinopec Resources UK rolled out two Flex Appliances, one in the production data center and one in the company's disaster recovery site. NetBackup is running primary backups to the Flex Appliances for all the company's physical and virtual servers, including those on the offshore oil platforms.

"Historically, we performed a local backup routine to disk on the oil platform, then replicated that backup onshore," Ogden says. "We're moving toward running the primary backup directly to the data center. That frees up offshore infrastructure that we can repurpose for hosting new services offshore." The new data protection architecture reduces vendor sprawl as well as resource consumption. In addition, backup management is far more efficient because staff can handle all data protection tasks through a single pane of glass.

"We have gone from multiple systems to one," Ogden says, "which makes the infrastructure much easier to manage. Backup schedules are shorter, and backups run more quickly. They are also placing less load on servers, which means there is less risk of a backup failing. As data volumes grow, companies can get to a point where backups aren't successful because they run outside the backup windows. We have reduced the likelihood of that happening. And by reducing the overall complexity of our data protection processes, we have freed up a lot of staff time."

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Now, the combination of trust in their data protection and the flexibility of the cloud environment enables the IT team to focus on providing new capabilities to the business. "We're an oil-and-gas operator, not an IT company," Ogden says. "Our department exists to support the broader organization. We are comfortable that we have the right backup solution and the right policies in place to meet our needs. And this path is enabling us to spend less time managing traditional IT services, which has freed up valuable IT resources to do more innovative work. That means we are better able to provide digital solutions that boost the performance of Repsol Sinopec Resources UK."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact your local Veritas Sales Representative or Business Partner, or visit:

[Veritas Flex Appliances](#)

[Veritas NetBackup](#)

ABOUT VERITAS

Veritas Technologies is a global leader in data protection and availability. Over 50,000 enterprises—including 87 percent of the Fortune Global 500—rely on us to abstract IT complexity and simplify data management. The Veritas Enterprise Data Services Platform automates the protection and orchestrates the recovery of data everywhere it lives, ensures 24/7 availability of business-critical applications, and provides enterprises with the insights they need to comply with evolving data regulations. With a reputation for reliability at scale and a deployment model to fit any need, Veritas Enterprise Data Services Platform supports more than 800 different data sources, over 100 different operating systems, more than 1,400 storage targets, and more than 60 different cloud platforms. Learn more at www.veritas.com. Follow us on Twitter at [@veritastechllc](https://twitter.com/veritastechllc).

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