



## **Laois County Council partner with Novosco for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure and Cloud Resilience.**

### **The customer**

Laois County Council are responsible for the delivery of a wide range of services through the County of Laois. The Council provides a broad range of services including roads, housing, planning, libraries and arts and culture. The activities of the Council directly impact in the lives of everyone who either lives or works in the county.

Laois County Council's mission statement is to lead the sustainable economic, social, cultural and community development of the county and deliver quality public services to the communities they serve. Their policy is to pursue excellence in service provision which is responsive to the needs of all its customers and which is delivered in an efficient, courteous and cost-effective manner. Embedding a quality customer service culture in the Council is one of their key objectives and the IT department wanted to find a business and services partner who reflected these values.

### **The challenge**

Laois County Council's existing IT platforms were at end of life and the objective was not to simply "rip and replace" the old hardware but rather to avail of technological advances in the server and storage arena. This led to an innovative evolution, moving to a hyper-converged infrastructure solution to meet both current and future needs while also positioning the council for ease of expansion and cloud integration. Laois County Council put in place a contract for a software-defined infrastructure solution consisting of a pre-integrated and highly interoperable architecture.

## **Overview**

### **Challenges**

- Ageing legacy IT platform
- Future proof solution needed
- Replacing existing infrastructure
- Transferring existing disaster recovery to new solution base

### **Solution**

- Dell EMC Hyper Converged Infrastructure
- Huawei CloudEngine switching

### **Benefits**

- Ease of use
- Flexibility and choice for further growth

The solution needed to be constituted as a single product consisting of hyper-converged nodes, hardware virtualisation, storage virtualisation, network connectivity and management system. In addition, the proposed solution would need to build on the current virtualisation in place for both the production and disaster recovery environments. The proposed solution also required a single management interface for ease of management going forward.

## The solution

Novosco have a strong skillset and expertise in developing a range of solutions for the public sector, to create innovative, elastic, converged on-demand infrastructures, as a service IT models for both on and off premise, right the way through to full managed services.

The solution for Laois County Council is a hyper-converged modern infrastructure from Dell EMC, designed to deliver a range of services to the user-base in a more dynamic and flexible way, while driving down the overall cost of managing and maintaining the infrastructure. The solution was designed to be disaster-tolerant, and by building an active-active solution, Novosco built-in automated recovery of the environment in the event of different levels of failure, from single server right through to the unavailability of an entire server room. An inbuilt backup system ensures that the entire solution is protected, and that data is stored remotely, aiding recovery in the event of data loss. As well as the hyper-converged infrastructure, Novosco delivered CloudEngine switching from Huawei to allow maximum throughput of the solution going forward.

## Business results & benefits

This was a critical project for a large county council that was central to their mission to provide service excellence to all its customers. It was a complex project that required a strategic understanding of the council's needs and highly effective delivery. The solution provided by Novosco was delivered on time, on budget and is bringing significant value for the Council.

All objectives of the project have been met and exceeded. Laois County Council felt that Novosco's team worked extremely well in partnership with them to deliver the project and in doing so reflected their values.



“Novosco’s team worked professionally and efficiently in partnership with us to deliver this project on time and within budget. It is important to us that our service providers reflect our policy of pursuing excellence in service provision. This is something that Novosco demonstrated throughout the project with zero downtime for staff and service users as the new environment was deployed.”

**Beatrice Heneghan, Head of Information Systems, Laois County Council**