



## Easy data storage and access expansion for Croon

Two thousand professionals, uninterrupted at work, worldwide – thanks to HPE 3PAR

### Objective

Non-interruptive storage capacity expansion provides manageable data storage at lowest possible cost

### Approach

Formed a project team consisting of internal IT specialists (both storage and hardware), to identify the best, future-proof solution available on the market

### IT Matters

- Expand data storage for 500 new employees in short time scales
- Ensure problem-free data migration

### Business Matters

- Guarantee the data storage expansion process creates zero disruption for users
- Reduce management, maintenance and energy costs



Croon is an electro-technical installation company with its head office in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The company designs and builds electro-technical installations for buildings, ships and industrial complexes and has tens of thousands of projects in a variety of market sectors. Its IT department employs 26 people. Croon and its partner, i3, selected Hewlett Packard Enterprise 3PAR StoreServ Storage to meet a 130TB working data storage requirement. The result? Uninterrupted access to data, worldwide, for at least 2,000 employees.

### Challenge

#### Unrestricted access to data

Croon Elektrotechniek was established more than 135 years ago, in the Netherlands. The business employs at least 2,000 people and is mainly involved in infrastructure, industrial and utility construction, marine and offshore projects. Croon frequently works on spectacular projects, for example the Pieter Schelte, the world's biggest ship.

IT manager Jhon Megens and back office coordinator, Richard Meeuwisse, are responsible for the secure storage of 130TBs of work data. Project preparation at Croon can take many years and is done in dedicated project offices - which could be in Rotterdam, Poland or the Netherlands Antilles. Once a project is ready for implementation, employees may be working at any location, globally, where they require unrestricted access to all of their data.

“Our people were undisturbed by the storage expansion process. They continued to have access to their data and experienced no slowdowns.”

– Richard Meeuwisse, back office coordinator, Internal ICT, Croon

Jhon Megens says, “Three years ago, we used HPE EVA for data storage. We then made the decision to stay with Hewlett Packard Enterprise, but to use the robust HPE 3PAR solutions.”

Following an acquisition, in which the company grew by 500 employees in a single stroke, Croon again reached the limits of its data storage capacity in 2012.

“We were again confronted by the issue of how to secure our data while retaining the fastest possible data access. Our work is continuous - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So while expanding storage capacity, we also had to provide our staff with unlimited access to all data, with no slowdown in the network.”

## **Solution**

### **Trouble-free expansion**

Jhon Megens continues, “We took a serious look at a number of suppliers. The solutions on offer all suffered in terms of their price/quality relationship. HPE presented a concept of proven technology. Our mind was made up when HPE Financial Services packaged this into an attractive offer.”

Croon assembled a project team under the overall direction of HPE Netherlands with additional advice from i3 groep, who acted as consultants.

Richard Meeuwisse adds, “We had to add extra disks and controllers to create capacity on the HPE 3PAR T400 Storage System. We store approximately 100TBs of work data and use the rest of the 130TBs for moving data and for backup. We drew up a plan of action for a seamless migration of data approved by HPE, in its guiding role. The expansion plan worked very well in practice. Instead of being a lengthy project, taking months, the storage expansion was achieved rapidly. We balanced disk loads and our people were able to work uninterrupted throughout the expansion process. They enjoyed continuous data access with no slowdowns.”

## **Benefit**

### **High reliability**

Megens continues, “The project has been very beneficial. We use HPE 3PAR storage - excellent, future-proof technology. All of the systems have been implemented with built-in data redundancy. An additional advantage is that one of our sister companies, Wolter & Dros in Amersfoort, also uses HPE 3PAR.”

**Case study**

Croon

**Industry**Electrical/Electronic  
Manufacturing**Customer at a glance****Software**

- HPE 3PAR StoreServ Storage
- HPE 3PAR T400 Storage System
- HPE Blade (c7000)
- HPE Thin Clients
- HPE Routers
- HPE Switches

**HPE services**

- HPE Financial Services

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“We use Hewlett Packard Enterprise 3PAR Storage  
- excellent, future-proof technology.”

- Jhon Megens, IT manager, Internal ICT, Croon

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“Both systems are connected by means of an 8 GB fibre optic cable, which gives us additional, built-in security. Our energy costs have shrunk significantly, which is always welcome from a business point of view and a necessity in terms of our social responsibility.”

There are further advantages for Croon says Meeuwisse, “Our employees use HPE Thin Clients, along with HPE routers and switches. Basing our ICT infrastructure entirely on HPE enables a high level of reliability and we can easily upscale if required. Working with a single IT supplier is also very attractive from a management viewpoint.”

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