AREA Science Park is a multisector science and technology park with an overall turnover of about 180 million euros. It comprises the Science and Technology Park that hosts 90 research institutes and companies that employ a workforce of 2,300 people in various fields of activity. It also includes the AREA Research Consortium, which was established to manage the park and promote its growth. AREA Science Park was looking to renew its storage processes by adopting a solution that would consolidate available resources into a single high-performance system. Hitachi Data Systems presented the answer the park needed with a solution based on Hitachi Unified Storage (HUS) 110.

About AREA Science Park
AREA Science Park operates with 2 campuses in the Carso region of Trieste and a 3rd site in Gorizia, where 90 high-tech companies and public and private R&D centers operate. One of the main Italian hubs of the European network of innovation hubs, AREA Science Park hosts R&D activities in various sectors. These sectors range from energy, environment, life sciences, food, IT, electronics and telecommunications to material physics, astrophysics and nanotechnologies. In addition, the park hosts qualified and consulting services in the fields of technology transfer, innovation management and advanced training. At AREA Science Park, companies can work side by side with research centers, increasing the chances of exploiting ideas and creativity, and boosting competitiveness.

The Challenge: Adopt Storage That Is Flexible, Scalable and Convenient
The main requirement of AREA Science Park was to renew its storage processes.

As we wanted to primarily ensure premium performance, scalability, reliability and volume, we found it strategic for us to turn to Hitachi as a technological partner.

Dario Stancich
Engineer and Director, IT Systems and Digital Administration Development Department
AREA Science Park

Benefits at a Glance

- Complete “turnkey” solution.
- Improved application response time.
- Consumption cost savings: 50%.
- Easy interaction and integration.
The park sought to consolidate available resources in a single high-performance system. The system was expected to support IT services provided to businesses operating within the consortium served by the park.

The previous structure at AREA Science Park was made up of various N-2 generation storage systems. In this case, it was necessary and urgent to find a vendor capable of ensuring the continuity of services immediately. The park required that the vendor provide a substantial upgrade of the current storage solutions.

AREA Science Park considered the offers of various market leaders and ultimately chose Hitachi Data Systems. HDS was considered a leading company for the quality of its offering, availability and service, as well as for the excellent price-service ratio. In this context, Hitachi Data Systems proved to be a player capable of responding satisfactorily to the initial emergency situation. HDS was able to improve IT services provided by AREA Science Park and satisfy the high-reliability and high-availability levels demanded by customers.

The Solution: Hitachi Unified Storage

A Winning Choice for AREA Science Park

The systems of the Hitachi Unified Storage 100 series are the only midrange storage systems capable of consolidating file, block and object data on a central platform. The HUS family redefines the future of unified storage to cope with data growth requirements and control increases in capital and operating costs. HUS systems simplify operations for all types of data. They meet service level objectives, smoothly manage scalability and services, reduce inactivity time and business risks, and manage data replication, migration and backup operations. “As we wanted to primarily ensure premium performance, scalability, reliability and volume, we found it strategic for us to turn to Hitachi as a technological partner,” explained Dario Stancich, engineer and director of the IT Systems and Digital Administration Development Department at AREA Science Park.

Consolidation

With today’s rapid increase in nonstructured data storage needs, traditionally separate solutions for files and blocks were no longer suitable for AREA Science Park. These older solutions did not meet business objectives of efficiency in terms of cost containment. Heeding customer concerns, Hitachi Data Systems proposed Hitachi Unified Storage 110 for all data, to help the company meet their growth requirements with the least possible economic effort.

A new-generation storage system developed by HDS, HUS 110 with Hitachi Dynamic Provisioning software and Hitachi Resource Manager utility package offers various functions. It enables business continuity, cash partitioning, dynamic provisioning, low emissions and low energy consumption, compared to their old N-2 generation. Implementing high-end scalability, this solution was designed by HDS to facilitate use by partners and researchers of AREA Science Park. It supports system users, who exploit standard Microsoft® Windows®, Linux and VMware platforms for research and development of new technologies, in addition to the usual back-office activities. After defining the project, HDS completed and finalized the entire startup and installation process, including configuration and migration of environments in just a few days.

“HDS was found to be the ideal partner to address our scalability project constructively, thanks to the technologies and professionalism that they provided.”

Dario Stancich
Engineer and Director, IT Systems and Digital Administration Development Department
AREA Science Park
Innovation is the engine of change, and information is its fuel. Innovate intelligently to lead your market, grow your company, and change the world. Manage your information with Hitachi Data Systems.

AREA Science Park Innovates With Information
Technology transfer to companies is one of the sectors of activity that characterizes AREA Science Park, internationally. With a strategy of intervention aimed at boosting business innovation and competitiveness, the park aims to create startups. It supports staff training and skills development to establish a link between research and businesses.

Thanks to the Hitachi solutions adopted, AREA Science Park has “innovated with information.” It was able to further develop its own technology transfer projects, exploitation of research, business incubator, patenting and patent support, advanced training, logistical and technical services for tenants.

The Benefits: Easy Integration and Cost Savings
AREA Science Park received immediate and multiple benefits from the Hitachi solution, which was presented in a complete, “turnkey” manner. Thanks to HDS, a significant improvement in the response time of applications and creation of the various images in a VMware environment was achieved. Easy interaction and integration with other operating systems ensured considerable added value to the solution, and overall consumption cost savings of about 50% was achieved, compared to previous generations.

All file, block and object data can now be made available, managed and archived during their entire lifecycle, systematically and efficiently. HUS 110 ensures that AREA Science Park provides faster and easier provisioning of storage for both block and file requirements within virtualized environments, including VMware and Citrix. It also provides application-aware data protection for both virtualized and nonvirtualized server environments.

Block storage is accomplished through high-performance and high-density dynamic virtual controllers. The controllers automate load balancing and tiering to provide optimal performance, both causal and sequential, with reliable results.

HDS also uses Hitachi Dynamic Provisioning to enable maximum flexibility for storage of files or blocks, and improve utilization rates.

“HDS was found to be the ideal partner to address our scalability project constructively, thanks to the technologies and professionalism that they provided,” said Stancich.

New and Future Developments
Thanks to the benefits it has experienced, AREA Science Park is already considering the possibility of extending the HDS solution to the entire park system of the Padriciano Area, including various other research areas or sectors.