

S U C C E S S S T O R Y

Hitachi Storage Solutions at Work

Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd., Sunderland Plant

INDUSTRY Manufacturing

SOLUTIONS Business Continuity, Tiered Storage, and Consolidation

Hardware—Hitachi TagmaStore® Universal Storage Platform model USP100 and Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage model AMS500

Services—Provided by Hitachi Data Systems



“We needed a storage system that not only guarantees business continuity for all of our applications but also ensures they are working effectively. Hitachi’s technology improves reliability and business efficiency, making it a perfect choice for Nissan.”

*Neil Melville
Manager
Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.
Sunderland Plant*



Hitachi Data Systems Keeps the Wheels of Storage Turning for Nissan

With Nissan manufacturing plants being opened across Eastern Europe, the company's operations were relying heavily upon shared applications across the network. Nissan was also under pressure to reduce costs while improving efficiency; the company's Sunderland, United Kingdom, manufacturing plant needed an ultra-reliable storage infrastructure to ensure data was always available and protected. The Hitachi TagmaStore® Universal Storage Platform with Hitachi TagmaStore Adaptable Modular Storage provided the structure and security Nissan required to create a more efficient business environment.

Based in Sunderland, Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd. (NMUK) builds 55 percent of Nissan vehicles sold in the European market. Having celebrated its 20th year in 2004, NMUK has grown to become the biggest UK auto exporter: one in five cars built in the UK are produced by NMUK.

Indeed, since the first Bluebird rolled off the line in 1986, the Sunderland plant has produced more than four million vehicles. It's little wonder that NMUK has been ranked

the most productive car plant in Europe for seven years running. Employee numbers working out of the Sunderland plant have also increased from 5,000 to 7,500 in the past two years, which, of course, has increased the user numbers on mission-critical applications and the amount of data that needs to be stored and organized. In order for IT systems to keep up with expansion across Europe, the plant required a complete end-to-end storage solution that would

support its growth and development, maintaining a competitive edge in the global car manufacturing industry.

Reliability Comes First

After experiencing significant growth over the last two years, NMUK realized that the current storage system could not cope with the increasing amount of data and the higher demands placed on applications. At the same time, the European motor manufacturing industry was coming under pressure to reduce costs, due to stiff competition from Eastern European manufacturers.

Without one common, heterogeneous platform for its different applications and operating systems, NMUK's data was being saved on dispersed, incompatible servers that were distributed across different countries. This method of storing data was completely unstructured and difficult to manage. More importantly, this silo approach to storage raised business continuity issues due to the lack of management and tracking.

Hitachi's TagmaStore® Universal Storage Platform model USP100 was selected to unify NMUK's disparate storage systems by centrally managing key pan-European applications and data from the Sunderland plant. It gave NMUK the management and reliability required for its mission-critical applications.

Matching Application Requirements to Storage

Nissan's global manufacturing sites depend heavily on communication systems such as e-mail and specialized applications that are shared across its sites. Two examples are Scope, an online car ordering and manufacturing planning system, and Manufacturing Requirements Plan (MRP), which is an application that ensures all manufacturing processes are compliant with motor regulations.

The unique Hitachi Data Systems solution perfectly suited Nissan's IT architecture by matching its application requirements to storage attributes and providing central management capabilities. The solutions support Nissan and its Sunderland plant by:

- Leveraging information/data value via a virtualized, heterogeneous, multitier storage infrastructure supported by common management tools
- Using a single set of data services for all migration, replication, backup, and security needs throughout the lifecycle of data

data-churning applications, such as e-mail and online manufacturing tools, we needed a storage system that would not just guarantee business continuity for all of our data but also ensure that our applications are working effectively," he explained. "Data drives applications and our applications drive our business. Hitachi's technology enables us to realize true business efficiency."

One Platform to Control All

The Universal Storage Platform has boosted the plant's storage capacity to 50TB and can easily scale up to support future growth. It also enables the true benefits of virtualization



- Handling any application (databases, messaging, file systems, enterprise resource planning, and customer relationship management) that provides index, store, search, and retrieve capabilities
- Correlating the availability of business-critical applications with storage network provisioning, capacity, performance, availability, and monitoring
- Simplifying storage management with a portfolio of education and consulting services that will maximize IT investments.

Neil Melville, manager at NMUK commented, "In the last year, we have grown from 5,000 employees to 7,500, which has also meant our data has dramatically increased. With so much of our daily work depending on key

to be realized by organizing internal and external heterogeneous storage into one pool for efficient management, allowing NMUK to consolidate information from three different operating systems onto one tiered platform. Data from Microsoft® Windows, the plant's midrange system, IBM® AIX®, and IBM z/OS® is stored in the one pool of capacity and managed effectively through its entire lifecycle.

This complete future-proof hardware and software solution from Hitachi Data Systems has consolidated NMUK's data from across Europe into one centrally managed system. All data is traceable and accessible for employees throughout Nissan's European sites, and stored at the most optimal, secure, and business-efficient level.

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