Sigma-Aldrich Chooses SGI® UV™ for SAP HANA® to Achieve Significant Business Growth
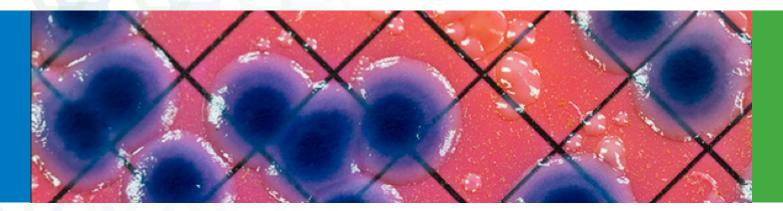
SGI's massive scale-up system powers Sigma-Aldrich's entire SAP HANA application suite

Overview

Sigma-Aldrich is a leading life science and high technology company focused on enhancing human health and safety. The company manufactures and distributes more than 250,000 chemicals, biochemicals and other essential products to more than 1.4 million customers globally in research and applied labs as well as in industrial and commercial markets.

With operations in 37 countries, Sigma-Aldrich supports over a million researchers around the world in its quest to enhance the quality of life.

"Our goal is simply to transform into a true, real-time enterprise by leveraging the immense computing power of SAP HANA for all transaction and analytic systems," said Silji Abraham, vice president and chief information officer at Sigma-Aldrich. "At the heart of this transformation is the desire to provide best-in-class products and solutions to our customers around the world to help them accelerate their research and find solutions."

The Challenge

In order to perform the real-time analysis needed to proactively manage its internal and external business processes, Sigma-Aldrich required a powerful scale-up offering that could match the growing data demands of its business.

While Sigma-Aldrich's current SAP HANA solution provided the ability to transform the business to a real-time enterprise, there were limitations on a multi-node horizontal deployment model.

With significant natural growth of an already extremely large database, Abraham wanted to partner with a company that had a clear product roadmap for scaling beyond the

current market limitations of eight sockets. This led the team to look to SGI for a scalable, building block architecture for the infrastructure to support growing business needs with optimal investments.

The Solution: Scale & Simplicity

"SGI has offered us a unique scale-up technology for SAP HANA beyond the normal limits. This allows us to realize our vision of transforming our entire enterprise to a 'real-time enterprise,' without worrying about our ability to support the exponential growth of big data," continued Abraham.

To address the need to continually accommodate the exponential growth of data and support high availability and disaster recovery configurations spanning multiple data centers, Sigma-Aldrich will deploy 24 appliances of SGI UV for SAP HANA featuring Intel® Xeon® E7 8890 v2 15-core processors. In total, these solutions deliver more than 50 terabytes of in-memory compute power to run all eight of Sigma-Aldrich's HANA-based enterprise applications including; enterprise resource planning (ERP), extended warehouse management (EWM), supply chain management (SCM), global trade service (GTS), customer relationship management (CRM), supplier resource management (SRM), human resources (HR) and SAP business warehouse (BW).

For each of these eight applications, the seamless high availability and disaster recovery capabilities are ensured with three servers, two of which run at the company's primary facility replicating synchronously with a high availability configuration to constantly work as a backup. The third is an asynchronous replica running at a secondary offsite facility, which also serves as a user acceptance testing and disaster recovery system.

Results

SGI UV for SAP HANA provided Sigma-Aldrich a seamless scalability platform that will allow them to manage their ever increasing growth of data. Eventually, the 8 separate SAP HANA business processes (ERP, EWM, SCM, GTS, CRM, BW, SRM and HR) will be merged into one large SAP HANA instance for Sigma-Aldrich. A true end-to-end SAP Business Suite powered by SAP HANA with a scale-up, single-node SGI system.

About SGI

SGI is a global leader in high-performance solutions for compute, data analytics and data management that enable customers to accelerate time to discovery, innovation, and profitability. Visit sgi.com for more information.

To purchase SGI UV for SAP HANA, please contact SGI Sales at 1-800-800-7441.

About Sigma-Aldrich

Sigma-Aldrich, a leading Life Science and Technology company focused on human health and safety, manufactures and distributes 250,000 chemicals, biochemicals and other essential products to more than 1.4 million customers globally in research and applied labs as well as in industrial and commercial markets. With three distinct business units - Research, Applied and SAFC Commercial - Sigma-Aldrich is committed to enabling science to improve the quality of life. The company operates in 37 countries, has approximately 9,300 employees worldwide and had sales of $2.79 billion in 2014. For more information about Sigma-Aldrich, please visit www.sigma-aldrich.com.

"At an abstract level, SGI's technology is simply enabling us to realize our vision to create a real-time enterprise for the first time in the market...This transformation unleashes the true potential of our employees, and thereby creates an unmatched competitive advantage for Sigma-Aldrich to serve our customers in this information-based economy."

Silji Abraham,
Vice President and
Chief Information Officer
at Sigma-Aldrich