

SVA builds modern energy trading platform on Kubernetes



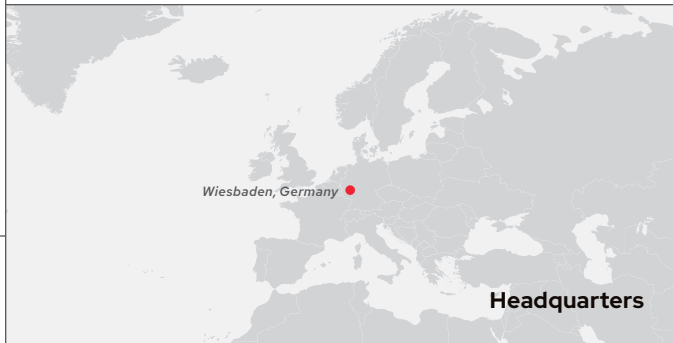
Partner resources

Red Hat® Premier Partner
Red Hat Certified Cloud & Service Provider (CCSP)

Software

Red Hat OpenShift®
Red Hat Ansible® Automation Platform

IT service and cloud provider, and Red Hat Premier Partner, SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH (SVA) has one clear ambition: providing optimal solutions for its customers. When one customer—a financial institution—decided to modernize its energy trading platform, it needed to ensure a robust platform satisfying Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) regulations. SVA designed a resilient and compliant solution with Red Hat OpenShift at its core. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform accelerated the deployment of consistent and error-free clusters across five distinct environments. With Red Hat OpenShift, SVA's customers can migrate legacy trading applications to build new services on a robust modern platform that meets BaFin requirements.



IT Services

2,400 employees

Benefits

- ▶ Ensured BaFin requirements are met thanks to architectural flexibility
- ▶ Accelerated deployment of error-free clusters
- ▶ Implemented GitOps and DevOps ways of working
- ▶ Assured third-party integrations

“Running applications in a containerized infrastructure based on Red Hat OpenShift provides a stable and compliant basis for our customers’ businesses.”

Jasper Wiegratz

Systems Engineer, SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH

“Red Hat OpenShift is the only Kubernetes platform that can guarantee it is able to satisfy the financial sector’s complicated resilience and regulatory requirements.”

Sebastian Zoll

Technical Leader OpenShift

SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH

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SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH (SVA) is one of Germany’s leading IT service providers, employing more than 2,400 people at 26 locations. With a corporate ambition to combine high-quality IT products from leading manufacturers with its own project know-how, range of services, and flexibility, SVA aims at developing optimal and individual customer solutions.

SVA is not only a Red Hat Premium Partner—the highest Red Hat partner status—but has also been a Red Hat Certified Cloud & Service Provider (CCSP) since 2020. In recent years, SVA has invested in a wide range of Red Hat technologies, and among the most prominent are its investments in Red Hat OpenShift and Ansible Automation Platform.

The IT service provider’s partnership with Red Hat, alongside its expertise in Red Hat technologies, is helping it deliver on its corporate ambition: providing optimal solutions for its customers.

Offering global capital markets state-of-the-art IT

SVA was the ideal choice for customers needing a Red Hat partner to assist in designing and rolling out their new critical business systems. “One of our customers, an innovative market infrastructure provider, decided to adopt a Kubernetes platform for its new energy trading platform,” said Sebastian Zoll, Technical Leader OpenShift at SVA. “A microservices architecture would help ensure flexibility, resilience, and a rapid time-to-market for new services.”

This financial institution needed to satisfy BaFin regulations at all times. That means any new platform must be architected in a way that ensures all applications running on it meet specific BaFin requirements. It needed its new energy trading platform to meet compliance of both migrated legacy energy trading applications as well as future applications.

Architecting a robust and compliant solution

Already a Red Hat user with numerous successful projects based on Red Hat technologies, this particular SVA customer saw Red Hat OpenShift as a natural source for its Kubernetes platform. “As a robust enterprise-level solution, Red Hat OpenShift is the only Kubernetes platform that guarantees it can satisfy the financial sector’s complicated resilience and regulatory requirements,” said Zoll.

What’s more, the platform would need to connect to numerous enterprise storage, hardware, and software products. “Integrations with third-party hardware and software are a really important part of the new energy trading platform,” said Zoll. “A fully certified Kubernetes distribution such as Red Hat OpenShift was a must.” A “vanilla Kubernetes platform,” as Zoll described community versions of Kubernetes, would not be able to guarantee support for those integrations.

The financial institution turned to Red Hat partner SVA early in the project, engaging the partner for its deep Red Hat OpenShift expertise. After designing the modular solution, SVA helped roll out Red Hat OpenShift clusters across five separate environments.

The SVA experts turned to Ansible Automation Platform to automate the rollout of the solution they had designed. SVA wrote Ansible scripts for everything, from rolling out and configuring clusters to configuring storage and managing containers. The on-premise insulation runs in a virtualized environment, connecting to a NetApp storage solution for storing all the data produced by the energy trading applications.

Adopting enterprise-level technologies from a trusted partner

Ensured BaFin requirements were met thanks to architectural flexibility

The architectural flexibility of Red Hat OpenShift allows the financial institution and SVA customers to meet stringent BaFin requirements. Thanks to Red Hat technology, SVA has built a robust platform with a decoupled container infrastructure that ensures the required separation of environments.

“There are a lot of requirements in the BaFin catalog, and the biggest challenge is building the platform to satisfy the requirement for different network zones. Red Hat OpenShift allowed us to allocate individual IP addresses for cluster, pods, and services with the IP addresses not accessible to outside customers,” said Zoll. SVA was then able to use the Ingress Operator to control external access to OpenShift Container Platform cluster services for multiple application domains.

Accelerated deployment of error-free clusters

Ansible Automation Platform enables new clusters to be up and running within 40 minutes. Operators need to simply enter a few basic details and then click a button. Fully automated container deployment using Ansible Automation Platform eliminates manual interventions, mitigates errors, and ensures consistency across multiple environments.

Red Hat OpenShift simplifies the task of setting up solutions where you have many different environments. “With containers, we can just move applications across environments without having to worry about the underlying infrastructure, and Red Hat OpenShift makes doing that so much easier,” said Zoll.

Implemented GitOps and DevOps ways of working

Red Hat OpenShift allowed SVA to implement a DevOps approach across the development and operations life cycles. It offers development and operations teams a common platform and set of tools for building, deploying, and managing containerized applications. “The whole team is working in a DevOps way with Red Hat OpenShift as the DevOps enablement platform,” said Zoll.

Ansible Automation Platform introduced GitOps principles for configuring and managing the Red Hat OpenShift clusters to SVA. GitOps takes DevOps best practices and applies them to infrastructure automation, similarly with a common platform and set of tools at its core. “Being able to reference one single repository for all environments ensures consistency across all clusters,” said Zoll.

Assured third-party integrations

The breadth of third-party software certified on Red Hat OpenShift expands the choice of enterprise products available. “If a software or hardware product is validated to work with the Red Hat technology, our customers can rest assured that it will work, and for SVA’s financial-sector customer, work on its new energy trading platform,” said Zoll.

Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) can certify their software for use on Red Hat OpenShift through the Red Hat software validation process. The certification process includes a series of tests that ensure a consistent experience when certified third-party software runs on Red Hat OpenShift. Customers have the confidence that their deployments are jointly supported by Red Hat and the partner product.

Moving toward future digital innovations

By running applications and processes in a container infrastructure based on Red Hat technology, SVA gives customers the peace of mind that it can meet not only today's requirements but also tomorrow's. "Red Hat OpenShift provides a platform for further digital innovations, and in the case of our financial-sector customer, in the field of Energy Trading," said Zoll.

"Running applications in a containerized infrastructure based on Red Hat OpenShift provides a stable and compliant basis for our customers' businesses. Partnering with Red Hat has been an important step toward bringing our customers' digital innovations to life," said Jasper Wiegatz, Systems Engineer at SVA.

About System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH (SVA)

SVA is one of the leading IT service providers in Germany, serving customers throughout the country. It develops optimal solutions for companies and public customers with products from leading manufacturers. The company offers high performance computing, storage area network architectures, data security, and disaster recovery, as well as virtualization technologies. www.sva.de/de.






About Red Hat Innovators in the Open

Innovation is the core of open source. Red Hat customers use open source technologies to change not only their own organizations, but also entire industries and markets. Red Hat Innovators in the Open proudly showcases how our customers use enterprise open source solutions to solve their toughest business challenges. Want to share your story? [Learn more](#).



About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers develop cloud-native applications, integrate existing and new IT applications, and automate and manage complex environments. A trusted adviser to the Fortune 500, Red Hat provides award-winning support, training, and consulting services that bring the benefits of open innovation to any industry. Red Hat is a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and communities, helping organizations grow, transform, and prepare for the digital future.

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