Australian electricity transmission and distribution company TasNetworks, needed to transition diverse applications into a single platform, following the merger of two electricity supply organisations in 2014.

The choice of FlexPod from Cisco and NetApp, running SAP HANA with Commvault data protection software, created significant business improvements and efficiencies that have resulted in better services for their customers.
“FlexPod has transformed our performance and efficiency, so we can focus on applications and end-user services.”

Liam Cole, team leader, IT Commercial Operations, TasNetworks

To build an efficient business, TasNetworks needed a single platform with a single application for each business function, and a single source for all data. They achieved this integration by implementing SAP applications on FlexPod with NetApp MetroCluster and Commvault for backup and recovery.

**Challenge**

When the Tasmanian government created TasNetworks in 2014, it merged two separate electricity supply networks. This merger presented the challenge of integrating numerous legacy platforms from each company, including payroll, HR, and operational technology.

“We saw huge benefit in consolidating these diverse applications into one platform that would give everyone a single way of working,” says Michael Westenberg, general manager, Technology and Performance, TasNetworks. To assess the magnitude of the task and investigate the best solution, TasNetworks created a program they called Ajilis. The Ajilis team engaged Cisco from a networking and server perspective, and NetApp from a storage perspective. They also decided to standardise on SAP modules across the business with FlexPods across two sites using MetroCluster.

**Solution**

To create the powerful platform they needed, TasNetworks selected FlexPod from NetApp and Cisco, which includes NetApp All Flash storage arrays, Cisco networking and the Cisco Unified Computing System in a single deployment. They integrated this using Commvault Complete™ Backup and Recovery.

By setting up a 100% virtualised environment, TasNetworks can scale services by augmenting the appropriate compute, storage or network capacity within a single pod. “The integration capability through the VM stack and the FlexPod stack and back into Commvault is second to none,” says Liam Cole, team leader, IT Commercial Operations, TasNetworks. “It’s made it really easy to deploy hosts and do maintenance. And it’s been exceptional for availability. FlexPod has transformed our performance and efficiency, so we can focus on end-user services.”

Today, TasNetworks runs a range of SAP modules, including Governance, Risk and Compliance, Enterprise Asset Management, Finance, Payroll and Project Management. TasNetworks can also access real-time data analytics to enhance safety, reduce response times and lower costs, and they are looking to deploy artificial intelligence solutions in future.

**One source of truth**

FlexPod has given TasNetworks a seamless, integrated platform with employee self-service. “Now, everyone in the business is using SAP and there is one source of truth,” says Westenberg. “We can trust our data, because it is coming through one platform in real time.”

**Passing on the savings**

Through consistent processes and ways of working, TasNetworks has improved service delivery. “NetApp storage efficiencies have enabled us to realise performance and availability improvements, while delivering a 75% reduction in data centre footprint,” says Westenberg.

**A trusted platform for growth**

With FlexPod powered by Cisco and NetApp including tight integration with Commvault, TasNetworks is able to non-disruptively deploy, shift and swap infrastructure and upgrade the network fabric. Every piece of maintenance work is completed online, all without downtime to the SAP application environment. TasNetworks can confidently run mission-critical services with platinum-level SLAs and model future requirements via a unified picture of their data and infrastructure.

**Future proofed**

TasNetworks has calculated that the process improvements will continue to deliver cost savings for the next ten years. “We are taking advantage of things like aggregate level deduplication to get further value,” says Tristan Roberts, team leader, Infrastructure, TasNetworks.

**Interviewees**

- Michael Westenberg, general manager, Technology and Performance
- Liam Cole, team leader, IT Commercial Operations
- Tristan Roberts, team leader, Infrastructure

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### Solution Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cisco</th>
<th>NetApp</th>
<th>Commvault</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cisco Nexus switches and Fabric Interconnects</td>
<td>NetApp ONTAP</td>
<td>Commvault IntelliSnap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS)</td>
<td>NetApp All Flash FAS (AFF)</td>
<td>Commvault Complete™ Backup and Recovery</td>
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<td>Cisco UCS Manager</td>
<td>NetApp FAS SnapVault Target</td>
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<td>Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)</td>
<td>NetApp AFF using FabricPool data tiering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisco UCS Director</td>
<td>StorageGRID Webscale (Object Store)</td>
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<td>NetApp OnCommand Insight</td>
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<td>NetApp MetroCluster</td>
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### Core SAP & associated software

- SAP Suite on HANA & Business Warehouse on HANA
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP
- VMware vSphere

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