

# MEB and Solvinity complete critical IT migration in record time



## AMBITIONS

- Migration of the IT environment to a new data centre
- A stronger foundation for IT innovation
- Stress-free technical application management



## SOLUTIONS

- Full migration within six months during the corona crisis
- A Secure by Design private cloud environment, set up in accordance with Solvinity's strict and high-quality security and compliance standards
- Technical support in word and deed



## RESULTS

- Peace of mind and greater control of IT
- Improved security
- Increased agility
- A future-proof IT environment

## A gold medal-worthy performance in the midst of the corona crisis

**The Medicines Evaluation Board (MEB) is the independent Dutch authority that regulates the quality, effects and safety of medicines. In addition, it promotes the proper use of medicines for the right patient. These are crucial public health tasks that the MEB needs to be able to perform day in, day out. For this, modernisation of the IT infrastructure was essential.**

Let's rewind to 2019. Despite the MEB already being highly digitised, a team with limited capacity still had to keep the IT running, which included self-developed legacy applications in a data centre that needed to be updated.

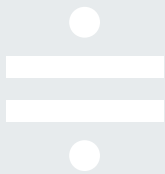
The MEB therefore decided that a rethink was called for. "We excel at the monitoring of medicines; however, IT isn't our core business," says Joris Kampmeijer, Chief Information Officer & Head of Information Management at the CBG. "We were already working with a lot of hired employees at the time, and this way of doing things made it a challenge to ensure the stability of existing IT while innovating using the cutting-edge technologies we need in our work."

In order to again facilitate this innovation, we decided to go for a tender process. But first we explored all the options in a market consultation. "We wanted to be sure of the terms and conditions we needed to have in the tender," explains Kampmeijer. These included the stipulation that there should be a move to a private cloud environment in another data centre. There were also extremely stringent cybersecurity requirements. "Cybersecurity has been critical to the MEB for years," says Kampmeijer. "We're an inviting target for corporate espionage and state actors because of the information on medicines we manage. Suppliers should therefore be able to assure us of top-level security."

Solvinity eventually won the tender process. "Although several parties had good proposals, Solvinity was one of the few that could provide the overall IT landscape, including workplace, cybersecurity and data centre management," said Kampmeijer.

## ON THE MEDICINES EVALUATION BOARD

The MEB is an independent authority that regulates the quality, effects and safety of medicines and promotes the proper use of medicines for the right patient - whether it's a painkiller from the local chemist or treatment that's only available on prescription from a medical specialist. From the traditional to the entirely new, the MEB's work involves medicines available in the Netherlands and - in collaboration together with our European colleagues - across Europe. The MEB works with society and for society. It also initiates and promotes the sharing of knowledge, from scientific research to consumer information. For example, the MEB maintains a knowledge base on medicines and their practical use.



## ABOUT SOLVINITY

Solvinity provides Secure Managed IT Services for organisations with stringent security requirements. Its innovative managed cloud solutions allow the company to support public administration and central government, municipalities and leading organisations in the financial and business service sectors. Solvinity advises them on their digital transformation, designs and builds the complex platforms on which mission-critical applications are able to operate securely, and supplies software developers with CI/CD, container technology and 'Stretched' DevSecOps solutions. The organisation boasts an extensive security portfolio and very high standards for cybersecurity and certifications in accordance with both national and international standards such as ISO 27001, 14001 and 9001, SOC 1 and 2 (including Azure) and PCI DSS. Solvinity has 350 employees and offices in Amsterdam, Assen, Amersfoort and Den Bosch. In 2021 it achieved an annual turnover of 59 million euros.



## Relocating during the corona pandemic

Once all the signatures had been obtained, it was time for the real work to begin: migration to the new data centre. Except there was one small challenge: the corona crisis had just emerged. "By now, our teams were all working from home, so we were faced with a considerable task," says Kampmeijer. "Looking back, together with Solvinity, we delivered a gold medal-worthy performance in facilitating this transition during the corona crisis."

**“ Together with Solvinity, we delivered a gold medal-worthy performance in making this transition during the coronavirus crisis. ”**

**Joris Kampmeijer**, Chief Information Officer & Head of Information Management, MEB.

With the MEB playing a critical role in the fight against COVID-19, everything it did was under close scrutiny. "The question did, of course, arise as to whether we should actually be carrying out this migration. However, after much discussion with all stakeholders, we concluded that the risk associated with not moving was far greater. After all, we can't do our job without our primary process system, and this ran on an infrastructure that could be made more secure and stable."

Together with Solvinity and Accenture, our application provider, we drew up a comprehensive plan for the migration. This involved opting for a straightforward transfer of the existing application to a new technical infrastructure in a so-called 'lift & shift'. "Accenture and Solvinity put a great deal of energy and thought into this," says Kampmeijer. The lift & shift was a calculated risk in this plan. "Ideally, you first work on application modernisation before embarking on a cloud migration; however, given the time constraints due to COVID-19, we simply didn't have this room for manoeuvre. After all, our role in vaccine development couldn't delay matters."

In order to mitigate the migration risks, the MEB set up a pilot environment with Solvinity that contained additional data lines to run trial scenarios. "We invested heavily in this, as well as in additional manpower," says Kampmeijer. "Anything just to make sure the migration was a success."

The migration was completed in December 2020. Kampmeijer looks back on a 'fabulous' pace of work. "Only six months separated the award and the migration! Solvinity pulled out all the stops for us to build the improved technical infrastructure. That's quite an achievement, especially during COVID-19."

**“ I can honestly say that Solvinity is an organisation where security is paramount. ”**

**Joris Kampmeijer**, Chief Information Officer & Head of Information Management, MEB.

## From migration to innovation

The post-migration period was all about further improving the environment. Strengthening security was a particular area of focus for the MEB and Solvinity. "I can honestly say that Solvinity is an organisation where security is paramount," says Kampmeijer. "If incidents do occur, they address the problem immediately and then take the time to reflect and improve."

The MEB's sights for the future are set on innovation, which includes modernising the primary process system. It is also increasingly moving to the cloud, together with Solvinity. "We will continue to work together," explains Kampmeijer. "Solvinity is a long-term partner we can evolve together with."