



SUCCESS STORY

Energy



CGG | PROBLEM SOLVED

CGG needed a cost-effective data storage system that could scale to hundreds of petabytes for high-performance geoscience analysis.

CGG Fuels Resource Discovery with On-Demand Geoscience Processing

CGG is a global leader in cutting-edge geoscience. With 30 locations around the world, CGG analyzes hundreds of petabytes of geoscience data, generating highly detailed 3D images of the Earth's subsurface. CGG relies on NetApp E-Series storage to power its massive high-performance computing environment and deliver actionable insights to clients.

Running analytics on
100s of petabytes
of data

20 years:
zero downtime

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“E-Series is a perfectly designed, high-quality product that does exactly what we need, and nothing that we don’t.”

Jean-Yves Blanc
Chief IT Architect, CGG

In the oil and gas industry, the race is on to find untapped, unclaimed natural resources. In this industry, timely access to actionable data is everything. To keep pace with the ever-increasing demand for energy, oil and gas companies must now explore some of the most remote corners of the world. There, you will find CGG geoscientists using the latest technologies to help their clients find previously undiscovered resources.

FUELING RESOURCE EXPLORATION WITH DATA

CGG’s proprietary Geovation software is the powerhouse behind the company’s seismic data processing and imaging services. Data collected from hundreds of thousands of sensors is transferred to one of the company’s 30 global subsurface imaging centers, where it is processed using Geovation to create precise, 3D images of the Earth’s subsurface. Predictive analytics also provide a deeper understanding of the subsurface for the exploration, production, and optimization of natural resources.

This is analytical science on a massive scale: “Typically, a single dataset is between hundreds of terabytes and tens of petabytes,” explains Jean-Yves Blanc, chief IT architect for CGG. “With dozens of datasets running concurrently, our environment can reach hundreds of petabytes of data.”

For years, CGG implemented NetApp® E-Series storage across its global imaging centers. According to Blanc, NetApp provides the best performance at the best cost for CGG’s Geovation environment.

“CGG has a single criterion for choosing all our equipment: the price/performance ratio. Our E-Series systems are not the fastest. Nor are they the cheapest. But, for the past 20 years, NetApp has consistently offered the best ratio across any data storage solution,” says Blanc.

BUILDING A DATA PIPELINE TO ACCELERATE DISCOVERY

For CGG’s clients, time is money. The faster CGG can complete each project, the more likely it is that CGG clients will reach profitable resource extraction sites ahead of their competition. With batch jobs reaching hundreds of terabytes, CGG depends on the reliable, high performance of its E-Series systems.

“The reason we chose NetApp was because of their extremely powerful engine and their unique price offering for what we do,” says Blanc. “It is very important for our clients that we process the data on time. So, our geophysicists need to access the data as fast as the business can afford.”

With some projects taking months or even years to acquire all the necessary data, CGG can’t afford delays in processing due to storage downtime. Over the last 20 years, CGG has experienced zero downtime from its E-Series systems, enabling its Geovation software to smoothly process hundreds of thousands of petabytes of data without fail.

Having standardized on E-Series storage at each of its global imaging centers, CGG can now add storage modularly as its requirements rapidly grow. E-Series storage is easy to scale and easy to manage, which gives CGG the ability to nondisruptively grow its environment without adding management overhead or complexity.

KEEPING GLOBAL ENERGY RESOURCES FLOWING

As CGG continues to develop and improve its Geovation software, it remains confident that it can rely on NetApp E-Series storage to grow with its business needs and continue to provide actionable and timely insights to its clients.

“E-Series is a perfectly designed, high-quality product that does exactly what we need, and nothing that we don’t,” says Blanc.

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