

Florida Crystals Corporation Migrated its SAP Infrastructure to Amazon EC2 Instances to Reduce Costs and Meet Sustainability Goals

Lemongrass, an SAP specialist, chose Amazon EC2 instances with underlying Intel® Xeon® processors to maximize performance and workload flexibility.

Solution Summary

- Intel® Xeon® processors
- Amazon EC2 Instances



Executive Summary

Florida Crystals Corporation (FCC) farms sugarcane, rice, and vegetables in South Florida, where it owns two sugar mills, a sugar refinery, and a packaging and distribution center. The company has Florida's only rice mill and one of the largest renewable power plants of its kind in the U.S., which uses sugarcane fiber to generate eco-friendly energy that powers its sugar operations. Florida Crystals is Florida's largest organic farmer and the only producer of Regenerative Organic Certified* (ROC*) sugar grown and milled in the U.S., then offered to consumers through the [Florida Crystals*](#) brand. Florida Crystals' organic farm is also the largest ROC farm in the country. Its subsidiary, ASR Group, jointly owned with Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, is the world's largest cane sugar refining and marketing company.

In the past, FCC relied on its on-premise infrastructure to run SAP applications. However, as the company grew, it needed additional resource capacity and greater processing power to speed its growing workloads. With the help of Lemongrass, a specialist in SAP implementations, FCC migrated its SAP applications to Amazon EC2 instances with underlying Intel® Xeon® processors. The move provided FCC with greater scalability and performance, improved monitoring, backup, and more. The company also saved money by consolidating Amazon EC2 instances.

Challenge



With the help of Lemongrass, a specialist in SAP implementations, Florida Crystals migrated its SAP applications to Amazon EC2 instances with underlying Intel® Xeon® processors.

Florida Crystals is the first US brand to earn the distinctive *Regenerative Organic Certified* (ROC) status. The company gained this prestigious certification after demonstrating dedication to improving soil health, capturing carbon, and fairness to its farmers and workers. As FCC's business grew, its legacy on-premise data center struggled to meet greater SAP workload demands. The company also wanted to reduce its spend on systems infrastructure, enhance its readiness for disaster recovery, and utilize technology supporting sustainability goals.

Solution

Florida Crystals chose Lemongrass for its significant experience helping enterprises move from on-premises SAP systems to optimized solutions in the cloud. Currently, Lemongrass has over 8,000 SAP servers and about 400,000 SAP users under its management. FCC's migration project, which began in 2021, involved upgrading its SAP ERP system to SAP S/4HANA. Amazon and Intel produced purpose-built EC2 X1 instances powered by Intel Xeon processors to meet the performance and low-latency requirements for in-memory databases. Unlike typical EC2 instances, X1 instances have an SAP certification for production in enterprise-scale environments using the next-generation S/4HANA, Business Suite on HANA, and Business Warehouse on HANA. Florida Crystals also deployed several other Amazon services, including Amazon CloudWatch, Amazon EC2 instances, Amazon RDS, Amazon S3, EBS, and CloudEndure. The migration also allowed FCC to consolidate its SAP environment into a single global instance.

Results

The EC2 X1 instance flexibility allows FCC to expand its project systems' capacity when needed, with the extra processing power required for crucial project phases. The Amazon EC2 instances also provide extensive monitoring capability, more secure and turnkey backups for its applications, and distributed nodes for rapid recovery should a disaster impact its business. With SAP S/4HANA up and running on Amazon EC2 instances, FCC consolidated its environments, creating a single global instance. The solution helped reduce infrastructure costs while gaining operational agility.

"We always strive to be environmentally and socially conscious in our business decisions, and moving from a hosted private cloud to the public cloud is consistent with this approach. Moving our SAP systems to Amazon EC2 instances, with help from Lemongrass, will reduce our carbon footprint while saving us money. These savings can be diverted to fund projects and innovation that benefit our customers, employees, and partners as well as the world we live in through our regenerative farming practices."

—Kevin Grayling, CIO at Florida Crystals

Key Takeaways

- For a complex migration, a specialized partner like Lemongrass can speed up the process while avoiding downtime.
- Migrations from on-premise infrastructure can reduce IT spending significantly.
- Amazon and Intel offer "greener" instances to align with its clients' sustainability goals

For More Information

[Explore Intel Xeon processors.](#)

[Learn more about LemonGrass solutions.](#)



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