



CASE STUDY

ITTM - FACILITATING TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

Why ITTM Chose POST Telecom for its Cloud Infrastructure Needs

Pharmaceutical and biotech companies, public research institutions and private foundations around the world are conducting research to find ways to treat and cure diseases. A voluminous amount of data about each disease is collected, analysed and stored in separate locations, in numerous languages, using a variety of protocols and standards. If a researcher anywhere, at any time had access to high quality data in a format that followed international standards, worldwide knowledge sharing would be possible. No longer would research be done in a silo. Researchers would have a powerful new weapon in their fight against Parkinson's, cancer, Alzheimer's, Cystic Fibrosis and other serious illnesses.

Thanks to the expertise POST Telecom developed in the Biotech sector, ITTM is able to provide integrated BioIT services in an ultra secure Cloud platform to customers worldwide. Through Translational Medicine, ITTM now gives researchers next-generation tools and technologies that facilitate their fight against diseases.

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Post LUXEMBOURG Group



About ITTM

At the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB) of the University of Luxembourg, a team of BioIT experts developed processes for the curation and transformation of biomedical data to follow international standards. Moreover, they focused on visual analytics and data visualisation to facilitate translational medical research by generating dedicated disease maps.

Growing demand for this capability led to the launch of ITTM SA (TM stands for Translational Medicine). A spin-off company of LCSB, it offers a highly integrated BioIT (ICT) service portfolio. In addition to data curation, cleansing and visualisation tools, ITTM supports their customers by providing:

- hosting and access to knowledge platforms for query and analysis
- implementation and development of dedicated software and data analysis pipelines
- custom software development for data mining and visualisation tools
- analysis of biomedical data
- building disease maps
- long-term backup and archiving of data

Challenge

ITTM gives researchers a platform with tools that reduce complexity by making it easier to mine, view and analyse an extremely large volume of standardized data.

"Our customers want harmonised, curated and high quality data that they can quickly analyse, visualise and get directly to the golden nuggets" – Andreas Kremer, Co-Founder and Managing Director of ITTM

To launch the company, ITTM looked for a partner that could provide a robust infrastructure for big data management and meet the special requirements for security and data handling inherent in medical research. As a start up, it wanted a cost-effective infrastructure solution that would give it comprehensive resources and quality performance as it grows.

While the personnel at ITTM are experts in curation, visualisation, systems biology and bio-informatics, they also needed a partner who could add value and help solve the unique technical challenges they faced in working with big data. In addition, this partner had to be able to provide services and support on or international scale.

The founders established ITTM in the country of Luxembourg because of the experience with privacy and high level security gained through decades of service to world leading financial institutions. Therefore, ITTM looked for an infrastructure partner with this experience in Luxembourg.

Criteria for Selection

ITTM used these key criteria to select a partner:

- Highly secure data storage and data handling
- Flexible hybrid Cloud solution
- Proven quality performance
- Worldwide connectivity and data storage
- Scalability
- Luxembourg location

Choosing POST Telecom

Quickly identifying POST Luxembourg as a premier Luxembourg infrastructure provider, the founders initiated discussions and began an information exchange. (Note that POST Telecom is the international business arm of POST Luxembourg). At this juncture, POST Telecom was coincidentally building up expertise and looking for references in the Biotech sector. Both companies agreed that working together would help each meet its business goals.

Implementation

POST Telecom worked closely with ITTM to implement a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC). With the ability to choose from its modular and flexible service offering, POST Telecom put a public and private facing hybrid Cloud solution in place that met ITTM's unique requirements.

Delivering scalable computing power in a highly secure environment enables ITTM to effectively deploy its knowledge platforms. Data storage in state-of-the-art Luxembourg data centres provides the security and data protection that are essential in the biomedical sector. Worldwide connectivity is delivered by the proprietary POST Telecom network in Europe and direct connections to Tier 1 providers.

"Connected storage through our partnership with Softlayer® gives ITTM the ability to offer its international customers data hosting in more than 40 interconnected data centers around the world" – Luc Halbardier, Head of ICT Cloud, POST Luxembourg

In addition to providing a complete Cloud technical infrastructure, POST Telecom consults with ITTM to develop services specifically for biomedical research. This gives ITTM's customers confidence that they will always be using the latest hardware and best security technologies when transferring, processing and storing biomedical data.

"Many of ITTM's customers want data processing capability and infrastructure they can use themselves, so they utilize our flexible Cloud infrastructure solutions to control costs – and it's also important to them to work with a provider who understands their business." – David Foy, International Business Development Manager, POST Telecom

Result

ITTM is responding to the demand for data curation, analysis and hosting from one company. By making it easier to access, process and visualise information from a worldwide knowledge base, ITTM is providing valuable services its customers can use to reach their goals. Furthermore, ITTM is supporting the sustainability of research data by having it available after a project ends.

The POST Luxembourg Cloud-based technical infrastructure is performing to ITTM's exact specifications in accordance with strong SLAs. Providing this secure Cloud environment is a key component of ITTM's business model and is proving to be pivotal to its success.

POST Telecom and ITTM are now working together to develop next-generation, industry specific solutions that leverage big data management, highly secure data hosting and handling, plus worldwide Cloud services to facilitate translational medical research.

"Building on the security architecture provided by POST Luxembourg ensures that sensitive data is hosted in optimal IT environments. This process has increasing importance not only for Luxembourg but worldwide, and the ITTM/POST collaboration will facilitate and drive the efforts to become a global leader in the field." – Andreas Kremer, Co-Founder and Managing Director of ITTM

ABOUT POST TELECOM

POST Telecom is part of POST Luxembourg, which is the incumbent Telecom operator of Luxembourg and was founded in 1842. It is a company with an international outlook; its diverse workforce consists of 4,500 employees, who represent 47 different nationalities.

Its vision is to facilitate communication and ease the transfer of data and content between individuals and companies. POST Telecom is committed to delivering innovative global telecommunications, information technology and digital media services, and to providing high-performance national and international infrastructures.

Learn more about POST Telecom' Cloud Services.
www.posttelecom.com/cloud-ict

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