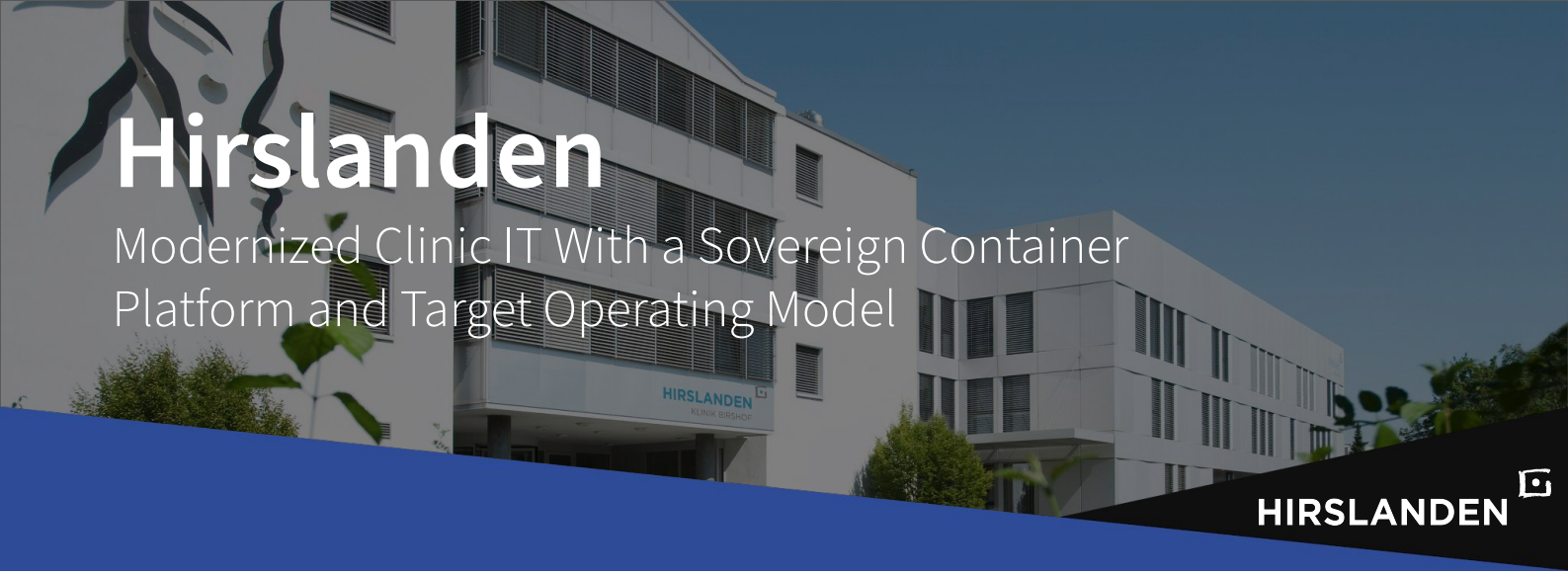


HIRSLANDEN

Hirslanden

Modernized Clinic IT With a Sovereign Container Platform and Target Operating Model

Adfinis



Hirslanden

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Our **Customer**

The Hirslanden Group is the largest medical network in Switzerland. The group includes 16 clinics, five outpatient surgery centers, and numerous radiology and radiotherapy institutes. With more than 3,000 employed and affiliated doctors and around 11,000 other colleagues, Hirslanden treats over 100,000 inpatients every year. To ensure high-quality care, the clinic group consistently relies on medical innovations and digitalization.

Core Technologies

- SUSE Rancher Prime
- SUSE Security
- SUSE Private Registry
- SUSE Storage
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro

Other Technologies

- Terraform
- OpenTofu
- GitOps

Situation & Goal

Hirslanden faced the challenge of modernizing a complex application landscape of around 800 clinical and administrative applications. As part of this transformation, classic legacy systems are increasingly being replaced by modern, cloud native, and containerized applications.

However, because the network manages highly sensitive data from more than 100,000 patients annually, a public cloud solution for patient-critical applications was completely out of the question due to strict regulatory requirements in the Swiss healthcare system. The core IT operations team faced a demanding reality: the number of applications to be operated was growing rapidly, yet the team size could not be increased without incurring substantial additional expenses.

Furthermore, many manual steps plagued the existing software development and deployment workflows. Hirslanden needed a partner to help design a highly available, easily scalable, and secure container management platform that could be operated entirely on premises in their own data centers – providing long-term stability, automated efficiency, and robust data protection.

Solution

As the technological foundation, the SUSE Rancher Suite was implemented across three data center locations to establish a central, highly available container management platform. This architecture hosts production Kubernetes clusters for critical systems – such as their new patient information system – on physical HPE bare-metal servers, while the infrastructure and management clusters run in virtualized environments.

The environment scales dynamically across approximately 30 nodes across all clusters, leveraging the container-optimized, immutable SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro operating system. By replacing manual workflows with infrastructure as code (IaC) and GitOps practices, the platform ensures rapid, fully automated infrastructure provisioning and continuous configuration management.

Results

Through our collaborative journey, Hirslanden unlocked a future-ready infrastructure that delivers long-term operational success:

- **Maximum Data Protection and Compliance:** Operating a hardened, on-premises environment tailored to established security standards like CIS benchmarks ensures absolute control over infrastructure, data storage, and software supply chains.
- **Advanced Automation and Efficiency:** Relying on tools like Terraform, OpenTofu, and GitOps eliminates manual deployment overheads, saving time and keeping the team's operational efforts to a minimum.
- **Resilient High Availability:** Distributing workloads automatically across three redundant data center locations means that even if an entire site fails, clinical systems remain online without disrupting daily clinical care.
- **Proactive Runtime Security:** Automated anomaly detection and continuous runtime process analysis via SUSE Security Shield, sensitive patient data from cyber risks, and minimizing the network's overall attack surface.
- **Operational Stability:** Standardized deployment and update processes mean everyday clinical infrastructure functions are predictable, reducing errors from day one.
- **A Launchpad for Future Innovations:** The flexible environment is ready to securely integrate next-generation innovations – including artificial intelligence (AI) or GPU-supported clusters – within their own data centers.

Adfinis and Hirslanden

For this demanding transformation, Hirslanden was looking for an independent, reliable partner who could support them in planning, designing, and setting up a new container infrastructure with Kubernetes. Adfinis convinced the customer through our specialized cloud discovery workshop, proven reference projects, and our structured journey concept. We acted as a strategic advisor and open source expert, developing a tailor-made solution strategy to help them navigate product choices, design scalable hardware, and plan deployment integrations.

Our approach was rooted in a holistic People, Process, and Technology (PPT) consulting model. We understood that technology alone does not ensure innovation; organization and structural governance must evolve alongside it. Together with Hirslanden, we developed a "Future Model Operations" to look at technology and organization as one integrated unit. This target operating model ensured that processes, team responsibilities, and clear governance were properly established right from the start, allowing the new platform to deliver immediate, seamless value to their engineering teams.

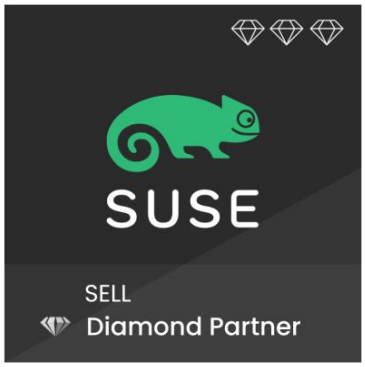
"An important part of the collaboration between Hirslanden and Adfinis was the integrated perspective on technology and organization. To identify potential hurdles early on and ensure right from the start that processes and responsibilities are properly established and fulfilled, we jointly developed a Future Model Operations. Our goal was to ensure excellent functionality of the platform on a technical level, as well as immediate adoption by the teams to deliver added value through clear governance."

HIRSLANDEN

– Dario Terrafino, Head of ICT Infrastructure Services at Hirslanden

Our Achievements

Adfinis and SUSE have been trusted partners for over 14 years, working together to advance open source adoption and deliver reliable, scalable infrastructure solutions. As a SUSE Diamond Partner—the highest partnership tier—we collaborate closely with SUSE to address complex technical and organizational challenges.



This long-standing relationship enables our customers to benefit from the full breadth of the SUSE ecosystem, from secure Linux environments to agile Kubernetes platforms, while preserving flexibility and avoiding vendor lock-in.

In recognition of our deep expertise and commitment to the ecosystem, Adfinis was named **SUSE's Solution Provider of the Year 2025.**

By combining flexible subscription options with expert, client-first guidance, we ensure businesses maximize the value of SUSE's powerful tools every step of the way.

Technologies

SUSE Rancher Prime

This platform makes it easy for organizations to manage and secure Kubernetes clusters. Adfinis offers setup, guidance, and support, enabling efficient orchestration and scalability across cloud, on-premises, and edge environments.

SUSE Security

This tool secures container environments with features like vulnerability management, compliance checks, and runtime protection. Adfinis assists with setup and ongoing support, ensuring your Kubernetes containers remain safe and efficient.

SUSE Private Registry

A secure, on-premises repository for container images and artifacts, allowing organizations to safely store, sign, and manage cloud-native assets and AI models locally.

SUSE Storage

A cloud-native, distributed block storage solution built for persistent Kubernetes workloads, providing a lightweight, highly available engine to easily provision and back up data.

SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro

An ultra-lightweight, immutable operating system purpose-built for edge, IoT, and embedded systems, featuring a hardened, tamper-proof footprint that maximizes reliability and minimizes attack surfaces.

"SUSE Rancher Prime enables us to modernize our application landscape step by step, without our users being affected in their daily work. "Doctors, nursing staff, and administrative team members can concentrate fully on working with the patients and trust that all system run reliably."

HIRSLANDEN

– Aurelio Amoroso, Senior Linux Engineer at Hirslanden

Adfinis as a **Partner**

Together with our customers and partners, we drive technology development.

Thanks to our extensive network and broad expertise, we can respond to the individual needs and wishes of our customers in the shortest possible time and thus create the best possible IT environment for everyone. Proximity to the customer is a central concern. Together with you, we utilise the innovative potential of open source technologies. Tailor-made solutions and services indicate the direction of technology development and open up new opportunities for both our customers and us.

GET IN TOUCH **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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Colophon
Title: Success Story - Hirslanden
Subtitle: Modernized Clinic IT With a Sovereign Container Platform and Target Operating Model
Publisher: Adfinis
Publication date: July 2026

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