

Marine Propulsion Leader HamiltonJet Achieves Digital Transformation with Strategic CloudSuite Migration

Client

HamiltonJet

Business Area

Business Applications

Industry

Manufacturing

Location

Christchurch, New Zealand



Overview

HamiltonJet is a New Zealand-based global leader in waterjet propulsion systems and advanced vessel control technologies for high-speed marine vessels. Founded in 1939, the company pioneered the first commercial waterjet, revolutionising marine propulsion with a more efficient and versatile alternative.

HamiltonJet serves a global clientele across offshore operations, pilot services, search and rescue, firefighting, military and patrol, wind farm support, fast ferries, fishing, aquaculture, and recreational boating. With over 60,000 waterjets installed worldwide, the company maintains a significant presence across the industry. They employ over 400 staff globally and maintain regional offices in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, supported by a network of more than 50 distribution partners.

Fast Facts

- Three-phase transformation from an 18-year-old legacy Movex system to Infor CloudSuite.
- 160 customisations eliminated in favour of vanilla implementation, reducing technical debt and future costs.
- 10-year partnership delivering functional and technical consulting for continuous innovation.
- Foundation established for enterprise-wide digital transformation initiatives.

“Atturra is highly technically proficient—at the pointy end of ability among the organisations we’ve worked with. They’re available, responsive, and there’s always someone there to help us out. We rely heavily on their experience and technical skill to guide our decision-making, especially when we want to avoid customisations and implement best practices. Their integrity is exceptional—they keep within what’s been conveyed and stay within budget. The information they provide is accurate, and they have the skills required to deliver on what they’re saying.”

Dominic Feran, ERP Manager, HamiltonJet

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Business Opportunity

By 2019, HamiltonJet was operating on an 18-year-old implementation of Movex that had reached a critical point. The business faced concerns about end-of-life support, outdated technology, and an accumulation of 160 customisations that had become difficult to maintain and costly to upgrade. The team set their sights on adopting the cloud version of Infor M3 but knew their data quality and heavily customised environment meant they weren't ready for a direct cloud migration.

Their technical challenges extended beyond ageing infrastructure. Every custom script and development required double investment—once for the current environment and again for future cloud compatibility. HamiltonJet required a strategic partner to guide them through this complex, multi-phase transformation.

Atturra, with a decade-long relationship and deep expertise in Infor M3 manufacturing implementations, was engaged to design and execute a transformation roadmap that would modernise their technology foundation while positioning them for long-term digital innovation.

Solution

The transformation was delivered across three phases.

Phase one focused on a comprehensive re-implementation rather than a simple lift-and-shift migration. Working collaboratively with HamiltonJet's team, Atturra executed the move from legacy Movex to on-premise Infor M3. This involved rewriting the chart of accounts and making the strategic decision to eliminate all 160 customisations in favour of a vanilla implementation.

Rather than trying to accommodate poorly designed customisations, Atturra guided HamiltonJet through business process changes that aligned with best practices. This approach required pushing back on short-term fixes to ensure the right long-term decisions were made. The team's willingness to challenge assumptions ensured the system would be used as it was designed to be, rather than forcing workarounds.

The on-premise implementation proved essential for the second phase, which began

in 2023. This is when Atturra conducted the technical upgrade to Infor CloudSuite. Because HamiltonJet had adopted a vanilla approach and refined its data quality, the cloud migration was executed as a low-cost, low-resource technical transition rather than another expensive re-implementation.

The third and ongoing phase focuses on continuous innovation and digital transformation. With a stable CloudSuite foundation in place, HamiltonJet now leverages modern Infor capabilities, including Experience Designer for enhanced user interfaces, a data lake for accessing historical data, and Infor Document Management with robust version control.

Recent implementations include Mobile Action, which generates significant productivity gains, and Enterprise Performance Management, designed to streamline financial reporting. Planned initiatives include Service and Maintenance, Project Order Management, Infor MES, and Velocity Suites.

Outcomes achieved

HamiltonJet now operates on a modern, scalable cloud platform that serves as the basis for enterprise-wide digital transformation. The cloud migration delivered immediate operational benefits over and above enhanced functionality. The overhead of maintaining on-premise infrastructure, including VPN access management, remote user landing points, server maintenance, and SQL database troubleshooting was eliminated. And the cloud-to-cloud connectivity between CloudSuite and tools like Snowflake and Power BI was significantly more reliable than the connector-dependent architecture of the previous system.

The strategic elimination of 160 customisations has dramatically reduced technical debt, lowered maintenance costs, and removed the need to pay twice for every development.

The CloudSuite implementation is stable and consistent, and the company has experienced fewer infrastructure issues than in its previous on-premises environment. Cloud-native integrations with Snowflake, Power BI, and other modern tools provide seamless, steady connectivity that was once difficult to achieve.



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HamiltonJet now has access to cutting-edge functionality and tools that enable its mature Infor M3 user base to continuously innovate and enhance productivity and decision-making. The business's CloudSuite platform and partnership with Atturra provide the agility, capability, and expertise to support their position at the forefront of marine propulsion technology.

Technologies

- Infor M3
- Infor CloudSuite
- Infor Experience Designer
- Infor Document Management (IDM)
- Snowflake
- Power BI