



'How do we get a real-time view of all real estate worldwide?'

Here's how KPMG is helping Schneider Electric

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About Schneider Electric

Schneider Electric, a global leader in electrical installations, faced the monumental task of managing its expansive real estate portfolio across 100 countries. Beyond its electrical prowess, Schneider Electric's influence extends into smart buildings, including its own headquarters in Paris and the Dutch site in Hoofddorp. With real estate spanning offices and industrial spaces, the division employs over 1,000 colleagues, emphasising the critical role real estate plays within the company.

The challenge: A global view in real time

Jonathan Townsend, Director of Schneider Electric's global real estate team, recognised the power of measurement in effective management. To propel Schneider Electric toward its zero-CO2 commitment by 2030 and address its sustainability goals, a real-time, comprehensive view of all premises was essential. Data fragmentation across tools hindered this objective, especially concerning energy consumption, occupancy and compliance with IFRS 16 lease requirements.

Forging a solution: The Planon and KPMG partnership

To move forward, Schneider Electric forged a partnership with Planon, a Nijmegen-based software company specialising in sustainable building management. Planon's integrated solution promised to consolidate Schneider Electric's real estate data effectively. Recognising the need to deepen in-house expertise, Schneider Electric also engaged KPMG for professional guidance on Planon's implementation, given KPMG's extensive experience and global reach.

Jonathan Townsend articulates the impact of this collaboration, stating, "Because Planon is a one-stop shop for portfolio management, workplace management and facility management, we can now move towards real-time insight into our real estate." Townsend highlights the transformative potential of accurate data, which would enable Schneider Electric to right-size buildings and achieve substantial cost savings, particularly in high-cost locations like Paris.

The implementation approach: A collaborative effort

Schneider Electric opted to implement Planon globally, addressing property and lease management, workplace management, and service and maintenance in three workstreams. KPMG, engaged for the Planon implementation and guidance in the first workstream, played a pivotal role in the complex process.

KPMG's role

- System design, configuration and authorisations.
- Data migration for over 1,000 operational buildings and 12,500 contracts.
- Test support and data reconciliation.
- Training, along with business and accounting advice.
- Open communication and coordination across workstreams were paramount. A year-long implementation process ensued, marked by daily consultations and global coordination, ensuring the real estate and leasing contract workstream concluded successfully just before the old tool's licence expired.

Results: A glimpse into the future of real estate management

Jonathan Townsend reflects on the project's success, emphasising its positive impact on property managers and their transition to Planon's modern interface. The implementation, though not fully complete, marks a significant improvement. Townsend laughs, "They definitely don't want to go back to the old tool", underscoring the positive reception among property managers.

Schneider Electric is now gearing up for the next phase, leveraging real-time data for more cost-efficient and sustainable building management. As Townsend states, "The greenest office space is the space you don't need to occupy", emphasising Schneider Electric's commitment to sustainability.

Showcases: The future unveiled in Paris and Hoofddorp

Schneider Electric showcased its innovations at The Hive in Paris and the Hoofddorp site, each epitomising the office of the future. Equipped with sensors for air quality, temperature control and occupancy monitoring, Schneider Electric's offices demonstrate precision and efficiency. The Hoofddorp site illustrates state-of-the-art workplace management, empowering employees to book rooms and control climate settings seamlessly.

Achievements and future prospects

The collaborative effort yielded substantial results:

- Planon insights supporting Schneider Electric's sustainability ambitions;
- Enhanced decision-making in the property portfolio with objective consumption and cost insights;
- Improved user interface for property managers and finance staff;
- Improved compliance with IFRS 16 for lease obligations;
- Successful integration and immediate use by 40 property managers;
- Over 1,000 real estate colleagues relying on a central data source for comprehensive management.

Why KPMG?

"In the preliminary discussions, it was already clear to me that KPMG understood very well where we wanted to go. Their experience with Planon was very important to us. Especially because we didn't have that experience ourselves yet but wanted to use the solution in the future – both for ourselves and for our customers. So it was extra valuable that they could also transfer that knowledge and experience to us. After the successful go-live, a period of hypercare support followed in which KPMG provided additional training and we made optimisations together. This allowed us to really complete the implementation properly."

Jonathan Townsend, Director Real Estate Governance & Operations, Schneider Electric



More information

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