



# Improving the health of IT operations to deliver exceptional membership services.

How the **Norwegian Medical Association** used the **Lenovo ThinkAgile MX** platform to revitalize its IT operations, ensuring first-class professional services for Norway's medical community.

**Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions**  
for The Data-Centered

**Lenovo**

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## Background

The Norwegian Medical Association (NMA) is a professional association and trade union for physicians in Norway. Employing approximately 180 people, NMA works to protect the professional, social, and financial interests of its 37,000 members.

The NMA strives for high professional, scientific, and academic standards in medical education, at university and beyond. The NMA also takes an active part in the development of the healthcare system in Norway and is a trusted advisor to the Ministry of Health and Care Services.


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## Challenge

The NMA serves members at every stage of their careers, from medical school to the workplace all the way through to retirement. It organizes professional and social events, helps members access legal assistance, offers training courses, supports applications for educational grants and scholarships, and more.

To deliver its services, the NMA relies on a wide variety of business applications, such as its mission-critical customer relationship management (CRM) system, running reliably. For this, the underlying infrastructure must be stable, deliver high performance, and simple to maintain.

In recent years, the NMA moved from a traditional storage area network (SAN) to a software-defined storage solution. However, the Dell hardware underpinning the Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct (S2D) solution did not meet the team's expectations in terms of performance or stability—a potential risk to overall service quality for members.

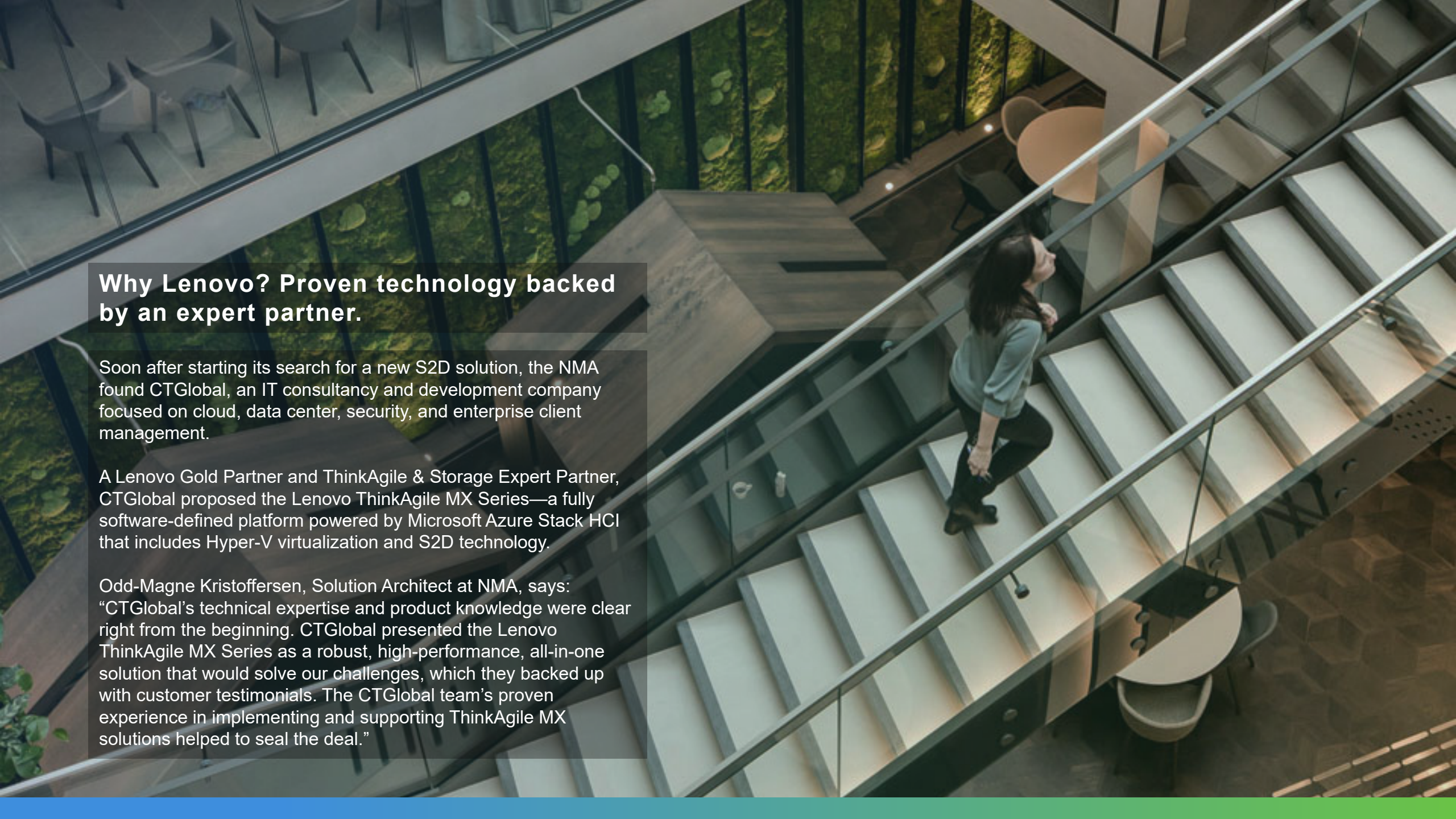


“Although we really liked the capabilities of the S2D software, the underlying hardware left a lot to be desired. So, when the solution came up for renewal, we jumped at the chance to refresh our S2D cluster.”

**Hege Knudsen**

IT Manager, Norwegian Medical Association



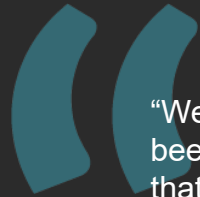


## Why Lenovo? Proven technology backed by an expert partner.

Soon after starting its search for a new S2D solution, the NMA found CTGlobal, an IT consultancy and development company focused on cloud, data center, security, and enterprise client management.

A Lenovo Gold Partner and ThinkAgile & Storage Expert Partner, CTGlobal proposed the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series—a fully software-defined platform powered by Microsoft Azure Stack HCI that includes Hyper-V virtualization and S2D technology.

Odd-Magne Kristoffersen, Solution Architect at NMA, says: “CTGlobal’s technical expertise and product knowledge were clear right from the beginning. CTGlobal presented the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series as a robust, high-performance, all-in-one solution that would solve our challenges, which they backed up with customer testimonials. The CTGlobal team’s proven experience in implementing and supporting ThinkAgile MX solutions helped to seal the deal.”



“We have been using Lenovo laptops exclusively for five years now, and we have always been impressed with the reliability and stability of the hardware. This gave us confidence that the quality of Lenovo’s data center infrastructure would be just as high.”

**Odd-Magne Kristoffersen**

Solution Architect, Norwegian Medical Association

## Seamless deployment.

The NMA implemented four all-flash Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Certified Nodes at its primary data center, configured as a single software-defined cluster. The organization uses Veeam Backup & Replication to perform regular backups to an additional Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Certified Node hosted at a secondary location.

Based on CTGlobal best practice, the NMA built a new fabric infrastructure using Lenovo ThinkSystem NE10032 RackSwitches, isolating the core production Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform for higher security.

Tight integration between Lenovo XClarity and Microsoft's Hyper-V management tool, System Center Virtual Machine Manager, enables seamless management of both the physical infrastructure, and all virtualized compute and storage resources from a single point of control.



“Rarely have I been so relaxed during a major IT project as I was throughout our Lenovo ThinkAgile MX implementation. The CTGlobal team supported us every step of the way.”

**Hege Knudsen**

IT Manager, Norwegian Medical Association

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## Results

With its core business applications now running on the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform, the NMA has seen a significant increase in reliability and performance. “We noticed an improvement for our critical Microsoft SQL Server and CRM workloads at once,” says Odd-Magne Kristoffersen. “Response times are faster, data loads quicker, and users are happier.”

With the new backup solution from Lenovo and Veeam, the NMA has also dramatically reduced backup windows from 14 hours to just 1 hour—93% faster.

Crucially, with the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform, the NMA gains a stable, high-performance, highly available infrastructure it knows it can rely on to support member services.

Hege Knudsen comments: “The Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform, backed by CTGlobal support services, just works. It’s easy to manage, easy to maintain, and frees my team to focus on delivering value-added services. For example, when COVID-19 restrictions meant that face-to-face meetings could no longer go ahead, we stepped in to provide video conferencing services for members. We’ve hosted thousands of virtual meetings in the months since, some with as many as 16,000 participants.”



**The Norwegian  
Medical Association**

**DEN NORSKE LEGEFORENING**

- ✓ **Delivers a significant application performance increase**
- ✓ **93% faster backups help protect critical data**
- ✓ **Frees IT team to deliver better services to members**





“Previously, full backups took 14 hours to complete. In fact, they took so long that we had to be selective about what we backed up. Now full backups take just 1 hour—93% faster than before.”

**Odd-Magne Kristoffersen**

Solution Architect, Norwegian Medical Association





“The Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform delivers exactly what was promised: improved performance, enhanced stability, and easier management.”

**Hege Knudsen**

IT Manager, Norwegian Medical Association

## What will you do with Lenovo ThinkAgile MX solutions?

The Data-Centered can focus on delivering exceptional services with  
Lenovo smarter infrastructure solutions, powered by Microsoft.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Solutions](#)



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