



BMW: Modernizing Legacy IT Systems

In Brief

BMW partnered with Gloster to transform the legacy IT infrastructure at the heart of its global production logistics. Throughout a multi-year collaboration, a cloud-native, microservice-based architecture replaced a on-premise hard wired infrastructure, drastically reducing deployment time, improving agility, and ensuring 24/7 availability for business-critical operations.

Today, this system calculates the Bill of Materials for every production line across all BMW brands and geographies, delivering Just-in-Time manufacturing data globally. Gloster's DevOps model and full product lifecycle management ensured continuity throughout the transition.



Azure optimization reduces costs



Service extended to global BMW group



Large scale data flows handled every night



Client renews tender for exceptional service

The Challenge

BMW faced significant challenges with its existing system:

- Legacy architecture (IBM DB2/MQ, monolithic design) couldn't scale or adapt fast enough to meet increasingly complex logistics requirements
- Lack of integration with cloud-native technologies
- High cost and risk of downtime, with factory-level delays potentially costing millions per day
- Slow feature delivery and brittle infrastructure

Gloster was selected to modernize this environment, winning a five-year competitive tender against large global firms due to its nearshore profile, expertise, proactive DevOps approach, and commitment to business continuity.

Our Approach

With BMW we adopted a phased, risk-averse transformation strategy anchored in Agile, DevOps, and cloud engineering best practices.

KEY ELEMENTS



1

Microservice Ecosystem (60+ services)

Independent development, testing, and deployment of critical and supporting services.

2

Cloud Migration:

Global scalability and high availability.

3

CI/CD and Blue/Green Deployment:

Reduced deployment time, bi-weekly production releases.

4

Data Handling at Scale:

500+ GB of structured production data every night, for over 40 factories.

5

DevOps Integration Model

Ensured continuous delivery and accountability.

Change Management & Human Factors

The project's success hinged on people as much as technology

Established a strong "ownership mindset" across all teams—Hungarian, German, Portuguese.

Reversed initial resistance by demonstrating reliability and clear role distribution.

On-site meetings and open collaboration transformed perceptions from vendor to equal partner.

Night shifts and 24/7 ops coverage were framed as team-building and career growth opportunities.

Business Impact

Business continuity ensured: we built and validated a full shadow system before switching production traffic, minimizing risk and guaranteeing uptime.

Efficiency Gains

- Deployment time cut from 5 hours to under 5 minutes.
- Automated demand forecasting and material calculation updated nightly for 40+ factories.
- Reduced failure rates due to proactive monitoring and automated validation.

Partnership Evolution

Gloster is now a recognized DevOps leader within BMW, entrusted with future-facing initiatives. The team evolved from feature developers to full lifecycle custodians of a globally critical production system.

What's Next?

BMW and Gloster will continue enhancing the system to support future initiatives, with Gloster responsible for system operations and development through 2030 due to their outstanding performance and reliability.

Technologies Used



Contact Information

Gloster Germany:
Gloster GmbH

Tölzer Str. 1, 82031
Grünwald, Germany

attila.toth@gplusconsulting.de
+49 179 919 1568

About Gloster

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