Overview
With annual revenues of 2.5 billion euros and approximately 20,000 employees worldwide, Getronics is the largest provider of IT services in the Netherlands and a leading global ICT-service provider. Since October 23, 2007, Getronics has been part of KPN, the main provider of telecommunication services in the Netherlands. Getronics offers workspace management services, consultancy, and data center and hosting services.

Challenge
In the Netherlands, the Data Center and Hosting Services division of Getronics provides 24-hour support for numerous clients across multiple industries. When an existing client—a major Dutch utility company with almost two million domestic energy customers—needed to reduce its total cost of ownership for customer management, it asked Getronics to architect a new SAP hosting environment.

Against a backdrop of rising energy prices and increased competition, the utility company determined that its cost of handling customers was too high, and targeted a substantial reduction in its cost-per-contract. The plan was to create a new customer information system based on SAP applications that would support greater automation of business processes and the introduction of a 24-hour customer self-service web portal.

The challenge for Getronics was to design an SAP hosting environment that would combine high performance, availability and flexibility with low total cost of ownership (TCO).

Solution
Working with IBM, Getronics architected the new hosting environment based on an early set of functional requirements provided by the client. The lack of detail in these requirements made it vital to create a highly flexible and scalable infrastructure capable of supporting the then-unknown final application landscape.

“An important objective for our client was to reduce TCO; our decision to base the new infrastructure on Linux and Intel processor-based servers kept the cost low and gave us the greatest flexibility,” said Rob ter Veer, ICT consultant and architect, Getronics Data Center and Hosting Services. “We felt that SUSE Linux Enterprise Server was the best Linux distribution for a data center environment, where robustness, support and manageability are key concerns.”

ROB TER VEER
ICT Consultant & Architect
Getronics Data Center and Hosting Services

Getronics
Responding to a major hosting client’s requirements for a cost-efficient high-availability environment for SAP, Getronics deployed SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server with its high-availability capabilities and Oracle Real Application Clusters on IBM System x3850 hardware. The new environment will support a web-enabled customer information system for almost two million customers.

Getronics at a glance:
The largest provider of ICT services in the Netherlands

- Industry and Location
  High Tech, the Netherlands

- Products and Services
  SUSE Linux Enterprise Server

- Results
  + Built a robust high-availability platform for business-critical SAP applications
  + Reduced total cost of ownership for hosting environment
  + Created flexible standardized platform for future client environments
“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with its proven high-availability capabilities provides the reliability our client needs to support mission-critical workloads: 24-hour customer web portals and business process automation.”

ROB TER VEER
ICT Consultant & Architect
Getronics Data Center and Hosting Services

Results
By selecting SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with its High Availability Storage Infrastructure, Getronics created an efficient and reliable data center platform for its client’s SAP applications. As the client ramps up its use of the new customer information system, the high availability provided by SUSE Linux Enterprise Server will ensure that newly automated business processes run reliably and cost-effectively.

“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with its proven high-availability capabilities provides the reliability our client needs to support mission-critical workloads: 24-hour customer web portals and business process automation,” said ter Veer. “Our client will ultimately handle almost two million customers using this system, and we are confident that the platform will easily scale to meet this demand.”

Getronics now views the combination of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with its high-availability capabilities and Oracle RAC running on Intel processor-based servers as a standard environment for hosting SAP applications with high-availability demands. By standardizing on these technologies, the company will reduce hardware, software licensing, maintenance and training costs—enabling improved client service and competitive pricing.

“With the high-availability capabilities in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, our client’s SAP applications can recover from a complete server failure within one minute,” said ter Veer. “The SUSE solution gave us a documented, repeatable, low-cost approach to high availability for SAP applications. The SUSE consultants we worked with have exceptional technical abilities and a clear understanding of our demanding requirements.”