

# AHEAD FlashStack Integrated Deployment Solutions

Whether you're building AI infrastructure, scaling inference at the edge, or advancing your virtualization journey, AHEAD Foundry™ provides fully built FlashStack integrated racks to accelerate technology adoption with speed, consistency, and scale. From design and integration to global logistics and deployment, Foundry helps reduce deployment timelines and deliver rapid time to value, providing unparalleled visibility along the way. By standardizing infrastructure with FlashStack, AHEAD enables organizations to modernize efficiently across datacenter and edge environments.



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AHEAD building blocks for FlashStack are designed specifically for organizations looking to either take the next steps in their datacenter virtualization journey, or to embark on new artificial intelligence initiatives.

AHEAD's FlashStack solutions are fully-integrated and configured through [AHEAD Foundry™](#) with the applicable foundational technologies, then deployed directly to sites. Our proven methodology ensures FlashStack deployments run smoothly and sites are up and running quickly to maximize application deployment times and full asset value.

AHEAD services go beyond rack integration to full-scale global logistics and post-implementation professional and managed services. Fully configured and integrated racks are safely and securely deployed anywhere in the world and carry the right certifications and documentation to avoid delays along the way. Systems arrive fully functional and are operational within hours, not weeks.

By engaging with AHEAD for your FlashStack needs, you benefit from end-to-end visibility with the [AHEAD Hatch® IT Lifecycle Management Platform](#). From asset procurement and production status by work center, to real-time shipment status and end-state rack configuration and installation details, Hatch enables your team to track every step for every location, and beyond.

## Flexible Building Block Configurations

AHEAD engineers – working together with Cisco® and Pure® teams – have created a reference architecture approach to FlashStack solutions with appropriate sizing and high availability design. FlashStack design methodology allows for any scale deployment, from starter inferencing architectures, to application-specific compute and storage pods, to full datacenter scale virtualization, along with AI infrastructure deployments at scale.

Wherever you are in your journey, Cisco and Pure technology provides a proven solution platform with a scalable reference architecture design, all brought together by the AHEAD Foundry Engineering and Build Teams.

Our specialists work with your teams to custom design, size, and scale your end-state solution. We assess workloads, both for traditional infrastructure and for artificial intelligence. We determine sizing for storage and compute, we assess and plan for appropriate network architecture, and we validate your power needs, your facility cooling capabilities, and your connectivity needs. Whether your workloads demand small, medium, or large rack deployments – or any combination – these options are meticulously engineered and configured to optimize FlashStack for performance and reliability.

### AHEAD's Integrated Rack Solution Includes:

#### **Full-Rack and Integrated Multi-Rack Assembly:**

Systems assembled, imaged, and configured to order, and installed into racks cabled with network switches, PDUs and any other requirements

#### **Cisco Compute and/or GPU (IG) Servers and Networking:**

High-density servers designed for maximum performance with modern high-speed networking interconnectivity

#### **Pure Storage:**

Scalable storage arrays that push the boundaries for capacity and density for general workloads and AI with Pure FlashBlade and Flash Array

#### **Unparalleled Efficiency:**

Power savings, automation, and sustainability

#### **Ready to Run Infrastructure:**

Workloads in days, not months

#### **Full Lifecycle Visibility:**

Full asset visibility from order to EOL



*We design small, medium, and large reference rack-integrated FlashStack configurations based on the workload in a fully integrated stack with networking, cabling, PDUs, and rack infrastructure.*

## Pre-Deployment Rack Integration

**Every detail** is managed across the physical and logical setup of FlashStack to deploy as a complete integrated solution

**Integration** of Cisco UCS, Pure Storage and Cisco Network Fabric

**Network and power cable** installation ensures redundancy, reliability, and efficiency

**PDUs and racks** are specified to provide consistent power distribution for maximum uptime

## Configuration and Testing

**Base configuration** of FlashStack nodes, storage, and network switches prepare the systems

**Firmware is updated** to the required levels, meeting Cisco and Pure certification requirements, maximizing availability, and enhancing security

**Intersight and Purity operating system** image is loaded to minimize on-site configuration

**As-built data harvesting and documentation** is automatically uploaded to Hatch

## Deployment to Sites

**Post-configuration**, final quality checks are performed

**Racks are securely shipped** to end locations in well-protected crates

**Optional on-site white glove rack installation services** with easy-to-follow instructions are included to power up and connect the solution to the on-site network

## Final FlashStack Integration On-site

**Connection is made** to on-site network and directory services for seamless integration into the existing identity management infrastructure

**AHEAD technical resources** are available as needed to perform on-site setup

*Key Partners:*



# AHEAD FlashStack Integrated Solutions

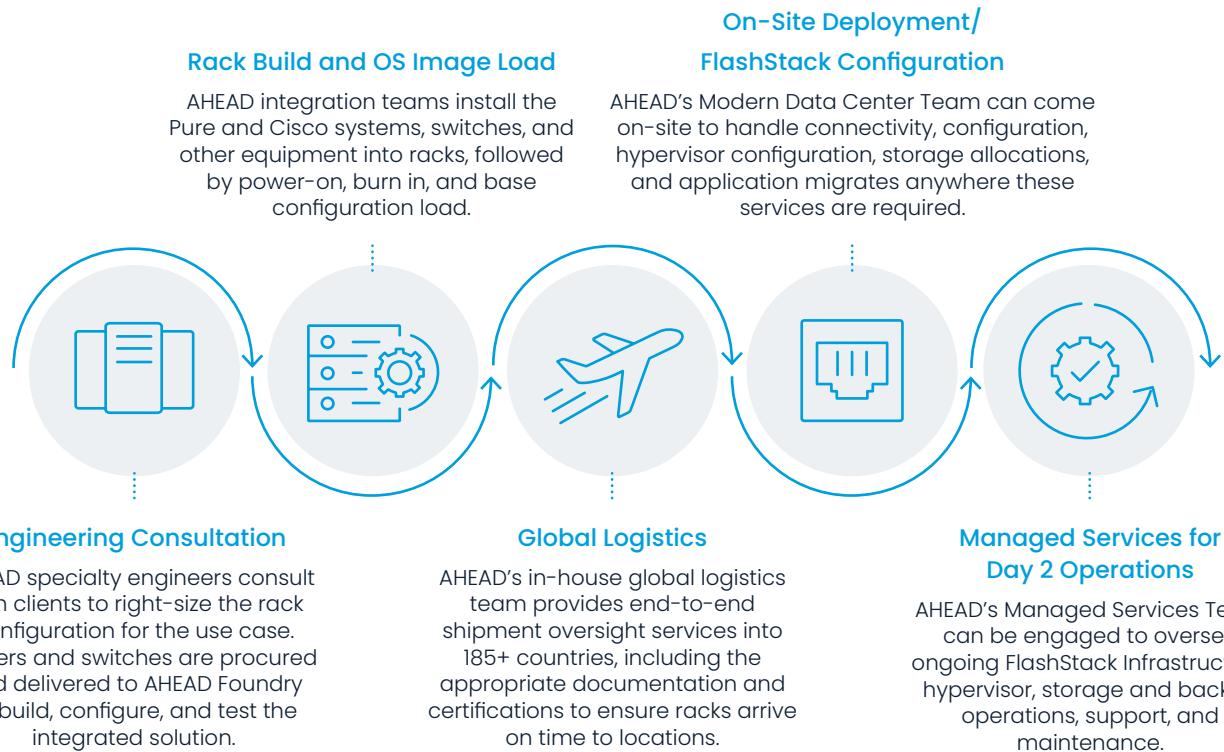
- T-shirt sizing for pre-defined configurations: small, medium, and large
- Leverage Cisco server and networking technology solutions
- Leverage Pure Storage technology solutions
- Include end-to-end design, rack integration, and deployment to sites
- Ideal for datacenter virtualization initiatives and edge/OT/factory modernization/AI

## End-to-End FlashStack Capabilities from AHEAD

Beyond building, integrating, and deploying FlashStack, AHEAD can provide professional and managed services to allow your team to stay entirely hands-off.

- On-site final mile configuration services
- Intersight and Purity configuration and setup to enable unified management across on-premises and cloud environments
- Managed services for full stack infrastructure, Cisco, and Pure

## AHEAD FlashStack Services



## Why AHEAD for FlashStack

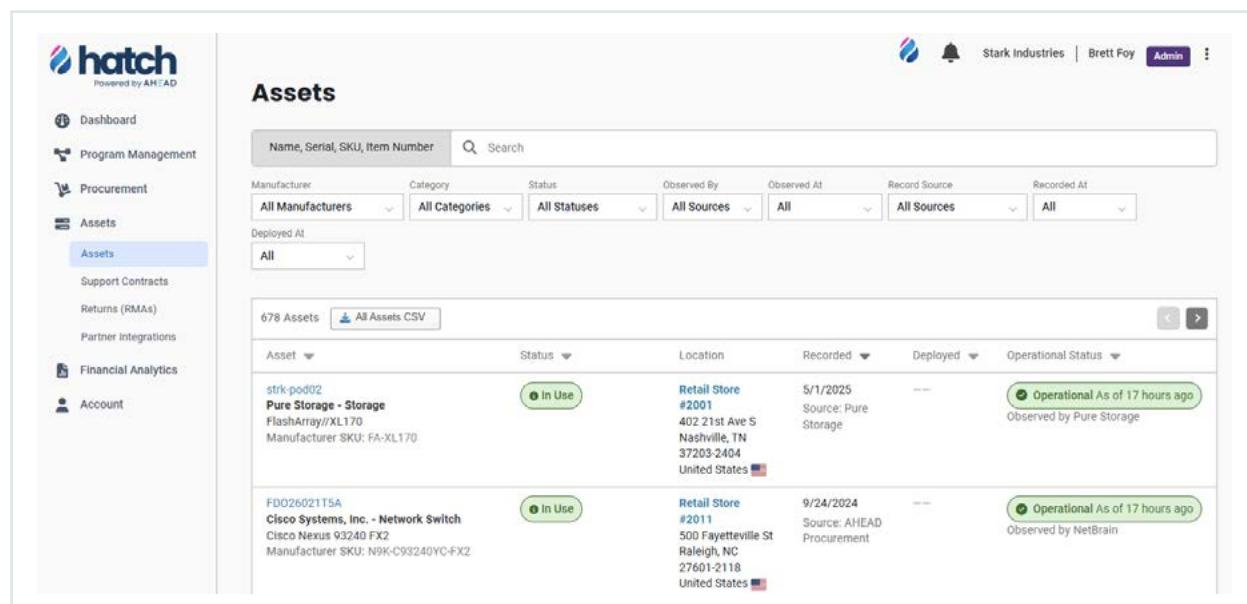
AHEAD provides a robust and efficient pathway with FlashStack to modernize your infrastructure. Contact us to learn how we help remove the burden off your IT teams to accelerate your deployment and get more value from your digital infrastructure.

## IT Lifecycle Transparency with AHEAD Hatch®

AHEAD Hatch IT Lifecycle Management Platform offers unparalleled visibility and control throughout the lifecycle of your FlashStack solution. Hatch provides rich data on every asset by location down to the component level, and real-time tracking across the supply chain, from procurement to integration to shipments in transit.

Hatch helps IT teams and stakeholders stay in the loop with transparency into every stage of the project:

- Real-time procurement status for hardware acquisition and software licenses
- Integration process tracking from assembly through configuration and testing
- Rack elevation mapping with precise slot tracking, serial number capture for each slot, detailed PDU positioning and serial data, PSU serial information, and more
- Lifecycle management for ongoing system updates, service entitlements, and maintenance records
- In-house logistics team experienced in exporting technology systems to 185+ countries
- Real-time tracking across the shipping and delivery process, ensuring transparency from start to finish
- Site management from installation through final implementation and beyond, knowing every asset's status by site location



The screenshot shows the AHEAD Hatch Assets management interface. The left sidebar includes links for Dashboard, Program Management, Procurement, Assets (which is selected and highlighted in blue), Support Contracts, Returns (RMAs), Partner Integrations, Financial Analytics, and Account. The main area is titled 'Assets' and displays a table with 678 assets. The table columns are Asset, Status, Location, Recorded, Deployed, and Operational Status. The first asset listed is 'strk-pod02' (Pure Storage - Storage, FlashArray//XL170, Manufacturer SKU: FA-XL170), which is 'In Use' at a 'Retail Store #2001' in Nashville, TN, recorded on 5/1/2025, and is operational. The second asset listed is 'FDO26021T5A' (Cisco Systems, Inc. - Network Switch, Cisco Nexus 93240 FX2, Manufacturer SKU: N9K-C93240YC-FX2), which is 'In Use' at a 'Retail Store #2011' in Raleigh, NC, recorded on 9/24/2024, and is operational. The interface also includes a search bar, filter dropdowns for Manufacturer, Category, Status, Observed By, Observed At, Record Source, and Recorded At, and a CSV download button.

### Next Four Quarter Expiration View

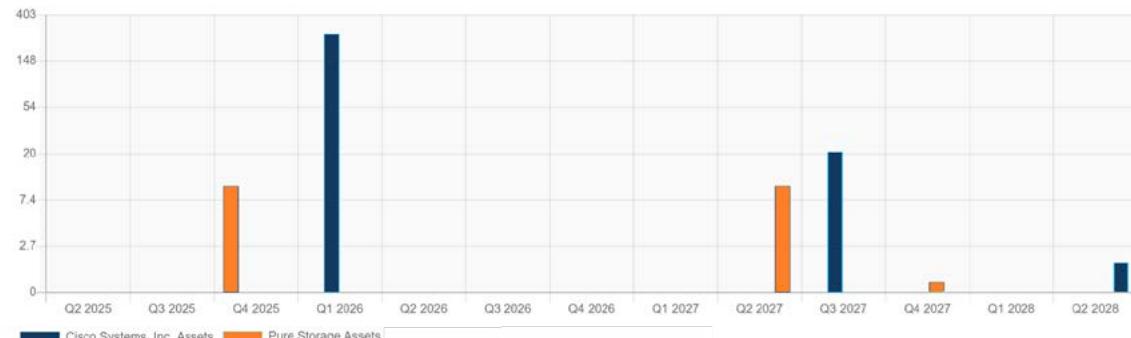
0 Assets  
Expirations in Q2 2025

0 Assets  
Expirations in Q3 2025

8 Assets  
Expirations in Q4 2025

269 Assets  
Expirations in Q1 2026

### Extended Three Year Expiration Outlook



Note: The chart's y-axis marks use logarithmic intervals

 **Cisco Systems, Inc.**  
All Entitlements

**269 Assets**  
Expirations in 0-2 Years

**21 Assets**  
Expirations in 2-3 Years

**3 Assets**  
Expirations in 3+ Years

 **Pure Storage**  
All Entitlements

**8 Assets**  
Expirations in 0-2 Years

**8 Assets**  
Expirations in 2-3 Years

**1 Assets**  
Expirations in 3+ Years



#### Cisco Lifecycle Information

Provides published lifecycle milestones for Cisco assets.

 Integration Active



#### Cisco Historic Asset Loading

Import all assets, asset details and associated deployment sites for all Cisco assets related to an associated SmartNet contract or account.

 Integration Active



#### Cisco Support & Maintenance Contracts

Fetches associated support and maintenance entitlements as well as SmartNet contract details for assets.

 Integration Active



#### Pure Storage Device Status

Queries the current asset and operational status as well as device details for Pure assets via Pure1.

 Integration Active



#### Pure Storage Historic Asset Loading

Imports all assets, asset details and associated deployment sites for all Pure assets via Pure1.

 Integration Active



#### Pure Storage Support & Maintenance Contracts

Fetches associated support and maintenance entitlements for Pure Storage assets.

 Integration Active

# AHEAD

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Learn more at

[www.ahead.com](http://www.ahead.com)



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