

NICO IVENS

ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE

Target roles: CIO | IT Director | Head of IT | Group IT Director | Technology Director

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Enterprise Technology executive with 25+ years of experience in international, multi-site and operationally critical organisations. More than five years of end-to-end Enterprise IT accountability at Visser & Smit Hanab / VolkerWessels across two operating companies, with an IT budget scope of approximately EUR 18.6M, formal CISO responsibility and first IT crisis-escalation accountability. Experienced in stabilising business-critical IT operations, structuring governance and ownership, and directing targeted transformation across infrastructure, cloud, applications, ERP, cybersecurity, data, vendors and service delivery. At BESIX, led Enterprise Technology governance and transformation within the Business Applications remit, connecting business needs with Group IT, architecture, data specialists and external partners.

CORE ENTERPRISE IT EXPERTISE

- Enterprise IT / Technology Strategy | IT Operating Model | IT Governance | Decision Rights
- IT Operations | IT Service Management | Service Delivery | Business Continuity | Disaster Recovery
- Cybersecurity Governance | CISO Accountability | SOC/SIEM | IAM/MFA/PIM | NIS2 Readiness
- Enterprise Architecture Governance | Cloud Foundations | Microsoft 365 | Azure | Technical Debt
- ERP & Application Portfolio Transformation | Business Central / Dynamics | Legacy Exit | Integrations
- Data Governance | Master Data | Data Ownership | Power BI | AI-Readiness Foundations
- Vendor & Contract Management | SLA/KPI | Sourcing | Managed Services | Transition & Exit Management
- Portfolio & Programme Governance | Budget Management | Capital Allocation | Risk | Dependencies | Benefits
- People Leadership | Multi-site IT | Group/Local Governance | Change Management | Executive Stakeholder Management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Business Applications Manager | Enterprise Technology Governance & Transformation | BESIX - Schelle, Belgium | 2024 - 2026

Enterprise Technology governance role across business, Finance, Group IT, architecture/data specialists and external partners. Team up to 14 FTE; application budget approximately EUR 2M.

- Established a repeatable management cadence across Team/Focus, 1:1, Service/CAB, Project Updates, Group/local alignment and steering, making priorities, decision rights, commitments and escalation explicit while preserving specialist autonomy.
- De-risked NAV to Business Central by making scope, data ownership, master-system decisions, integrations, migration sequencing, quality, testing, support and legacy exit explicit.
- Governed data and digitalisation priorities around fragmented applications, master data, integrations, reporting and operational control, including approximately EUR 0.8M of consumables inventory exposure.
- Translated architecture and vendor discussions into executive trade-offs across operational fit, integration cost, platform consolidation, lifecycle, budget risk, security, lock-in and exit path.
- Connected local business needs with Group architecture, security, standards and decision rights across ERP, asset management, finance/document processing and data initiatives.

IT Manager | Enterprise IT & Digital Transformation | Visser & Smit Hanab / VolkerWessels Telecom | 2018 - 2024

End-to-end Enterprise IT remit across two operating companies, comparable in scope to an IT Director/CIO mandate. Team 5 FTE plus specialist partners; combined IT budget scope approximately EUR 18.6M; close alignment with VolkerWessels Enterprise IT.

- Owned the complete Enterprise IT agenda: strategy, operations, infrastructure, applications, cloud, cybersecurity, service delivery, suppliers, contracts/SLA, budget, continuity and transformation.
- Aligned budget and investment priorities directly with the Group CFO of Koninklijke VolkerWessels and the local finance director, with weekly alignment to the management team.
- Held formal CISO and first IT crisis-escalation responsibility; governed network access control, SOC/SIEM, IAM/MFA/PIM, Defender/Sentinel, vulnerability management, continuity and recovery around a detect-escalate-contain-recover model.
- Directed cloud-first / Microsoft-unless foundations across Azure, Microsoft 365, identity/security, endpoint management and network renewal; contracted 24/7 managed SD-(W)LAN monitoring with SLA/service-delivery ownership.
- Challenged underperformance in a critical IT provider, protected continuity, benchmarked alternative delivery and defined transition conditions before moving managed services.
- Prioritised cloud, network, security, workplace and ERP investments against continuity, capacity and dependency; built an approximately EUR 200K Modern Workplace/cloud-foundation case.
- Realised approximately 7% recurring Microsoft licence run-rate savings through user/licence analysis while maintaining security capability; governed ERP/Dynamics, integrations and data/Power BI as business change.

EARLIER IT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

IT Manager Belgium | Worley Belgium | 2017 - 2018

Country IT leadership in international engineering (Worley / Jacobs, including US exposure); team 7; budget approximately EUR 12.75M. Accountable for service delivery, project technology services, risk, priorities, suppliers and customer alignment.

IT Operations Manager | ABM / Charles | 2016 - 2017

Multi-site temperature-controlled food production/distribution; IT operations, infrastructure, ERP/business systems, WMS, customer/order portal, TMS/telematics, integrations and external partners.

IT Manager | Eta-Com / C&S Electric | 2012 - 2016

International manufacturing across Belgium, Netherlands, UK and India; team 5-7; budget approximately EUR 3.5M; production ERP, reporting, infrastructure, international support and CFO Europe reporting.

IT Manager | Conix Architects | 2005 - 2012

Built and managed the full IT environment across Antwerp and Brussels: roadmap, budgets, applications, infrastructure, project delivery, service agreements and suppliers.

IT Manager & EPP Manager | Verheyen Graphics | 2001 - 2005

Technology-intensive production: IT infrastructure, business software, databases, support and automation; additionally led a 10-person production/EPP team.

Assistant IT / Pre-Press | De Cuyper | 1995 - 2001

Early IT and production-technology experience covering support, backup/storage, supplier coordination and day-to-day IT operations.

TECHNOLOGY & GOVERNANCE LANDSCAPE

Azure | Microsoft 365 | SharePoint | VMware | Veeam | Defender | Sentinel | EDR | IAM | MFA | PIM | Intune/MDM | Next-generation firewalls | Enterprise WAN/LAN/Wi-Fi | SD-(W)LAN | Disaster Recovery | ERP / Dynamics / Business Central | Power BI | SOC/SIEM | RBAC | Vendor SLA/KPI | CAB | Portfolio Governance

LEADERSHIP APPROACH

Stabilise -> Structure -> Transform. Clarity -> Trust -> Autonomy -> Accountability. Make the business outcome, owner, decision rights, checkpoint and escalation explicit; then give capable people room to deliver. When performance drifts, diagnose capability, clarity, capacity or attitude before choosing the response.

EDUCATION, EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT & LANGUAGES

- Executive Development (2026): Harvard Kennedy School - The Science and Implications of Generative AI (ongoing)
- Education: Higher education in Informatics
- Languages: Dutch - native | English - professional
- Availability: Immediately available | Permanent employment or freelance/interim via own management company | Preference for long-term trajectories