

DATASOURCE

DATA CENTRE MARKET NEWS

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NEWS
GLOBAL EVENTS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS APPROACHING THE DATA CENTRE AT SPEED



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08/2017



Chris Jones
Head of Data Centres
GVA

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Our core services

Every month Datasource reports the news and trends that matter to data centre occupiers around the world.

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program until the completion of the study with Master Degree (M.Eng.Sc). The course content will be aligned with your prospective career, you can apply your achieved knowledge directly into practice.

For further information regarding our programme please contact **Jürgen Bieser**.

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WORLD

Don't expect dedicated data centres for artificial intelligence

Dr Joseph Reger, Chief Technology Officer EMEA at Fujitsu, talks to João Marques Lima about the future of data centres powered by non-human intelligence.

The age of artificial intelligence (AI) is approaching the data centre at speed. Globally, investment in AI is predicted to top \$36.8bn by 2025, up from \$643.7m in 2016, according to intelligence firm Tractica.

Data centres are set to also jump on the multi-billion Dollar bandwagon over the coming years as non-human intelligence enters data halls across the world.

The use of machine learning, automation, special algorithms such as genetic algorithms, neural networks, deep learning and other AI technologies are believed to make data centres run better, both from an infrastructure and a workload perspective.

However, "there will be no dedicated data centres for AI, but all data centres will run AI", warns Dr. Reger.

"Currently, the cloud data centres are essentially Intel processors, Windows and largely Linux operating system (OS).

"There will, however, be special hardware coming because the above is the standard hardware and the standard OS. However, there are applications today that are just becoming very important and need more compute power than what the standard architectures can do, and these are the applications of AI."

The fact the delivery of healthy results decreases as the number of units increase brings to the table yet another issue.

To mitigate that, Fujitsu has built libraries that run on these many processors for AI. The company believes this will help partly solve the delivery issue because it uses the parallel nature of the hardware.

"We call this the General-Purpose GPU (GP-GPU). These GP-GPUs are, however, not enough, and Fujitsu is developing Fujitsu software that runs those in a very parallel fashion."

With that, Dr. Reger was referring to Deep Learning Units (DLU), hardware accelerators for AI that the company claims to outperform even the parallel execution on GPUs.

DLUs were invented by Fujitsu, which has also trade marked the name. The solutions are set to launch in Q3 or Q4 2017.

"That will change the face of the data centre."



Flexible fibre infrastructure boosts serviceability and up time

Unforeseen downtime within enterprise and data centres is an expensive and reputation damaging occurrence and one which in many situations can be mitigated against, writes Michael Adams. VP Strategic Business, Global Accounts, Panduit Global.

Data centre operators are targeting increased data transaction rates in order to maximise utilisation of active, revenue-generating equipment.

Evolving the data centre infrastructure to a higher density performance platform enables the operator to leverage technological advances in expensive processor and storage real estate.

The addition of increased processing efficiency through high speed fibre is an evolutionary step to higher performance in a market where annual global data traffic has passed the zettabyte milestone.

Where previously the cost of fibre connections were barriers to introduction, growing numbers of organisations are transitioning from 10G Ethernet to 40G/50G/100G Ethernet, or from 8G Fibre Channel to 16G/32G/64G Fibre Channel.

Moreover, data centre operators are utilising specific infrastructure strategies to deploy fibre circuits in mission critical areas.

The cost of unplanned outages has more than doubled over six years from \$1m to \$2.4m (see Bar Chart 1) and 59% of down time is attributed to the physical layer. Operators and owners can mitigate expensive outages through the right infrastructure choice.



Optimising connection density is essential in meeting increased data demand. While traditional fibre enclosures support the port counts required, their design typically results in hard to manage clusters of cables in the back of the enclosure.

Poor approaches to structured cabling systems makes it difficult for engineers to undertake IT equipment moves, adds and changes (MACs). This can also constrict air movement in the cabinet, increasing cooling costs and driving up IT equipment fan speeds.

Time-consuming to deploy and even more challenging to service, the traditional fibre enclosure had become a barrier to fulfilling MACs, making it difficult to fulfill service tasks without disrupting adjacent circuits.

The result is often costly outages, especially in revenue-producing applications. Developers need to understand the requirements of enclosure systems, high speed data channels as well as data centre operators' requirement for easier MACs and migration to higher data speeds as businesses increase transaction volumes.

How the decentralisation of compute power will democratise the cloud data centre

The industry is being driven towards the decentralisation of compute power, but what does it mean to us, mortals, asks João Marques Lima to Nariman Teymourian, Chairman and CEO of HyperGrid.

Today's business models around centralised compute power are being challenged by the explosion of connected devices, which by 2020 are predicted to reach 20 billion.

The way enterprises use the data centre is set to be disrupted as the barriers to entering the public and private cloud fade away.

"With edge computing and blockchain and other things that are happening in the market, the power of compute is becoming decentralised and you are going to see more decentralisation," said Teymourian, who heads the hybrid cloud as a service provider.

The executive explained that before we got to this new wave of evolution, the centre of the data centre was a decentralised model centralised inside the data centre.

"It was decentralised because everyone had a data centre, and then the public cloud became a privately owned public cloud available to the public.

"As companies begin to realise that inside their data centre the power of the edge remains in their own hands there will be less requirements to move to the public cloud, and more requirements around where is the most effective place to run a workload.

"Whereas as long as the power consumption and the compute power and storage capacity is nearest to the application – both from a physical and network perspective – then it becomes the most cost effective place for the application to run."

Teymourian defends that this could either be inside the data centre, it could be sitting on the public cloud or could be sitting on a hosting facility.

In an IoT era, such model allows the creation of a network of things which communicate between themselves and the public or private data centre, also becoming ever smarter as communications evolve.

"This decentralised notion of where the processing power is and how data becomes available is the next step for where I think the future is going to go," Teymourian said.



EMEA

Google opens London cloud region in 'vote of confidence to the UK'

UK's Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley, thanks Google for its investment in the UK and tells industry that "we are leaving the institution of the EU, we are not leaving Europe".

Google has launched yet another cloud region in Europe based in London with plans to open three more in the near future in Germany, the Netherlands and Finland.

The Google Cloud Platform (GCP) region, named Europe-west2, is now part of a global network of nine regions, and the second in Europe after Belgium.

Dave Stiver, Product Manager, Google Cloud Platform, said: "GCP customers throughout the British Isles and Western Europe will see significant reductions in latency when they run their workloads in the London region.

"In cities like London, Dublin, Edinburgh, and Amsterdam, our performance testing shows 40%-82% reductions in round-trip time latency when serving customers from London compared with the Belgium region."

Services offered from the London region include compute, big data, storage and networking capabilities. Speaking at the official launch of the region in London, Benjamin Treynor Sloss, Vice President of Engineering at Google, said the region's data centre infrastructure is to be powered exclusively by renewable energy.

He also said that by the end of the year, all Google data centres around the world will be fully energised resourcing to green energy sources.

Sloss said: "We are going to be 100% renewable by the end of this year. When a large company like Google makes this sort of commitments, this pushes the rest of the ecosystem. "Google has been leading the pack for data centres for some years now [when it comes to using less energy]."

Also speaking at the event, Tariq Shaukat, President, Customers at Google Cloud, highlighted that the company's cloud services are today used by more than one billion users worldwide, and that more than 100 billion Application Engine requests are put through every day.

He said: "Google Cloud today is already a sizable business with a sizable footprint in the UK and around the world.

"What is happening with cloud is that cloud is democratising the IT landscape. You can be a small company and you can access the best platform in the world, or you can be an Ocado and access the best technology built by thousands of experts.

"We believe that is going to drive a lot of innovation."

Joining the Google executives on stage, was the UK's Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley, who thanked Google for its investment in the UK and played down fears of a negative impact in the technology space once the country leaves the EU.

She said: "We want the UK to be at the forefront of digital. Although we are leaving the institution of the EU, we are not leaving Europe.

"We want to make sure all business can take advantage of what digital brings. I am so grateful that Google has made this vote of confidence in the UK."



Decision on Apple Irish data centre delayed (again)



Although the reason this time was not a shortage of judges, the Cupertino giant has now to wait until late July as locals organise new demonstration of support.

Apple's two-year long judicial battle in Ireland to get the approval for the construction of an €850m data centre seems to have no end as the court decision was once more delayed.

The multi-billion dollar iPhone maker has now to wait until July 27th to know of the future of the project, according to Galway Bay FM.

This is the second time the case has been delayed in the last week alone, after the Commercial Court in Dublin postponed the decision from June 23rd to June 30th due to a shortage of judges.

The data centre project, which covers 500 acres of land, has been proposed for Athenry in Galway back in February 2015.

On a Facebook group titled "Athenry for Apple", several users expressed their discontent with the court's delay.

User Paul Keane said this was "yet another delay in this saga that has truly left me disappointed in the system".

"Lady Justice is blind in more ways than one," he said.

Some of the 2,835 members labelled the decision as "disgraceful" and "unbelievable".

One user wrote: "Banana republic only in Ireland... this is ridiculous beyond belief.... our democratic system stinks to high heaven...."

Members are now debating a second rally on the streets of Athenry in support for the data centre project.

Mike Rabbitte wrote: "I think another mass rally will pile on the pressure required. We need all politicians, local businesses, west of Ireland entrepreneurs, dare I say the county council, chambers of commerce from other towns etc.

"To give this the final push over the line. I also think a delegation to the Dáil is required. It's a crying shame Athenry is falling off the map and towns around it are thriving. Bottom line, majority rules."

Google to build €1bn data centre in Luxembourg

Web scaler is to carry out a "major investment project in Luxembourg" with the support of the government in a move that could boost the central European data centre market.

Google is reportedly preparing to invest nearly €1bn in the construction of a data centre in Luxembourg, according to local media. The facility is to be built on a 25-hectare piece of land, making it the largest in the country.

The news was first reported by local state-funded radio 100.7, which said further details on the project are to be revealed at the end of July. Data Economy has contacted Google, which at the time of publishing was unable to comment.

Google's potential investment in Luxembourg, not necessarily related to a data centre build, was first unveiled by the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Trade Etienne Schneider. He said in a Tweet back in December last year: "In San Francisco, I discussed the implementation of a major investment project in Luxembourg with the co-founder of Google Larry Page."

Data Economy has contacted the minister's office who "refused to comment further" on the investment now said to concern a data centre. The data centre reports come days after Data Economy reported that Californian companies are on their way to the Grand Duchy to trial out self driving car technologies.

Google currently operates four data centres in Europe in Dublin (Ireland), Eemshaven (Netherlands), Hamina (Finland), and St Ghislain (Belgium). Speaking to Data Economy, EUDCA's board member and industry expert Derek Webster, said: "What this means for Luxembourg is a show of how a government driving to attract foreign direct Investments succeeds in developing infrastructures that delivers data centre market reach.

"Luxembourg's speed to market and existing high-quality investments in its Tier IV demonstrate a sector focus. A large cloud data centre investment as the Google site shows a sound business case for operation also for central Europe."

Webster further expanded saying that the low energy costs, resulting in a low OPEX, the use of green energy, a highly educated workforce and low political and geotechnical risks are important factors for companies like Google to choose a data centre location in Luxembourg.

In terms of energy costs, Luxembourg falls behind some other countries such as Sweden and Finland, which have the lowest prices in the EU at €0.066, and €0.069, respectively, whilst Luxembourg average for industry usage in H2 2016 was €0.086, according to Eurostat.

Power uptime is also an important factor and according to the CEER Benchmarking Report, Luxembourg has Europe's lowest average annual power outage time for clients connected to the grid at ten minutes. The country is followed by Denmark (15), Germany (17), Switzerland (22) and Austria (39).

According to BroadGroup's "Data Centres Europe 7" report, Luxembourg's data centre industry has benefited from the country's geo-location at the heart of Europe. However, the consulting firm stresses in the report that the fact Luxembourg has to outsource all its power from across its borders could prove a weakness to the market.

At the end of 2016, Luxembourg's overall data centre footprint accounted to 640,450 sqf.

CyrusOne seeking permission for large Dublin data centre base

Up to 400 jobs are expected to be generated by the new development which will see the provider expand to its fourth country.

US data centre operator CyrusOne has won its first round of approvals in Ireland which could eventually lead to the build of a large facility in the south of Dublin next to Interxion, Google and Microsoft.

According to local media, the total investment could reach €300m over the years, with the number of jobs being created – including construction jobs – amounting to 400. The reports on CyrusOne Irish development come after a piece-of-land measuring nearly 15 acres was sold to the American data centre operator.

The sale of nearly €6.7m was approved in a meeting of the South Dublin County Council this Monday. CyrusOne has now to get approval from local authorities to be able to build the data centre at the Grange Castle Business Park.

Data Economy has contacted CyrusOne which was unavailable to comment on the council's decision and the next steps. CyrusOne has today nearly 40 operational data centres, mostly in the US. The company also has facilities in Singapore and in the UK.

The company has a current market capitalisation valued at \$4.8bn, ahead of competitors such as DuPont Fabros (\$4.6bn).



CyrusOne has scheduled its Q2 2017 earnings report for August 3, with the majority of analysts remaining positive regarding the company's financial performance.

In its Q1 2017 results, the operator posted a 27% revenue growth compared to the same period the year before, topping \$149.3m in revenues, versus \$117.8m in Q1 2016.

However, the company reported a net loss of \$30.4m, blamed on a \$36.2m loss on extinguishment of debt related to the repurchase or early redemption of the 6.375% Senior Notes due 2022, which were refinanced with new notes having a lower coupon.

For the full year of 2017, CyrusOne expects revenues to sit between \$666m and \$681m, with capital expenditures amounting to between \$600m and \$650m (of which \$595m to \$640m are to be used in business development).

Brexit impacts 9 in 10 UK businesses IT decision-making as 2 in 10 put digital transformation budgets on hold

18% of companies have put digital transformation budgets on hold, whilst 23% have cancelled at least one digital transformation project.

In a revealing survey, 94% of UK CIOs have admitted that the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU) has had an impact in their decision-making concerning IT.

According to Interoute's 'Transforming for Success in a Changing World' report, 58% said the changing political landscape is today their biggest concern.

In addition, most businesses (52%) believe there is a "lack of direction and consensus from the C-suite" at a time when clarity is needed most.

Overall, 18% of companies said they are being cautious about change, and put digital transformation budgets on hold for now, whilst 23% have cancelled at least one digital transformation project.

However, not all is bad news. The report has also delivered some encouraging results as 90% of British enterprises remain ambitious for growth in the next ten months.

27% of the 120 IT leaders questioned took a conservative view of growth, while 63% of British organisations predicted high growth.

Despite Brexit, dynamic technology change and global political uncertainty, UK enterprises are continuing to invest heavily in cloud infrastructure and expect to move 46% of their IT to such environments in the next ten months to continue their digital transformation roadmaps.

When it comes to choosing which cloud is best for applications, 90% highlighted the need for physical proximity between cloud-based applications and their customers.

Almost three quarters (73%) stressed the importance of full integration between the cloud and network.

Matthew Finnie, CTO at Interoute, said: "This study proves that most British enterprises are proactively making technology decisions and are prepared to pivot quickly to remain competitive in the face of a changing and uncertain market. It also illustrates how technology planning has taken a strategic shift.

"Digital transformation is about ensuring an organisation is flexible enough to react to geo-political and market changes as well as delivering customer and business value.

"This requires an ICT infrastructure that enables, not inhibits, change. Rather than handcuffing an organisation to a specific vendor or inflexible infrastructure choice, it is about ensuring the platform and provider you choose gives you the freedom to change and adapt as the market does."

KAO Data Campus draws in 44MW of power into the UK's largest data centre site

Development represents a total investment of £200m and is expected to deliver one of the UK's leading science and technology parks.

One of the largest data centre parks in Europe and the largest in the UK has announced the full energisation of its site. KAO Data Campus, a project being developed under an investment of £200m, said the 43.5MW of power now available at the site in Harlow, outside London, were put to work two months ahead of schedule.

The developer said it is now about to enter negotiations for a power purchasing agreement to supply 100% renewable energy for customers who wish their data centre operations to be based on zero carbon platform bolstering their sustainability credentials at each of KAO's sixteen data halls.

The 35-acre park is being built as one of the UK's most important research and development facilities for technology and science and will also offer office space in addition to the data centre buildings.

The project has been backed by some of the world's leading investors, as reported exclusively by Data Economy back in February 2017, when a funding round led by Downing LLP and managed by Goldacre Ventures delivered an extra £33m worth of investment.

Paul Finch, Chief Operating Officer at KAO Data, said: "Taking power out of the critical path de-risks the delivery, positioning the project for further success. It is also an important step towards the realization of phase one of the development. With the first building due to be declared watertight in July, energisation of the site means that installation of engineering infrastructure can go ahead without hindrance."

"Energisation of the site is a serious tick in the box for any data centre owner and operator. We can now proceed through levels one to five of the commissioning process to keep the facility on target for its practical completion by December this year.

"Keeping this project on time and on budget is to the credit of a very accomplished and dedicated professional and contracting team. Particular credit goes to Matrix Networks in collaboration with JCA Engineering."

Also commenting on the energisation of the site, Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise at Harlow Council, a part-funder of the infrastructure works, said: "The Council was pleased to be a partner in this important development for the town.

"The data centre campus is a significant element in the continuing science and technology-led economic development of Harlow. It will also be a strong complement to our adjacent Science Park. I am delighted that the KAO Data team has reached this significant milestone ahead of schedule and look forward to completion of the first building."

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) also supported the KAO Data development with £2.5m repayable loan funding through the Local Infrastructure Fund (now replaced by the government's Home Building Fund). A spokesperson said, "The HCA, in close collaboration with Harlow Council, is really pleased to have played a part in the successful delivery of this ambitious project within the Harlow Enterprise Zone."

OVH's multi-billion Dollar global expansion lands German data centre



Building links to Europe's Tier 1 cities and main hubs in Frankfurt, Brussels, Strasbourg, Prague, Paris, Amsterdam, London and Milan.

OVH has brought online its first data centre in Germany, less than a week after securing an extra €400m to help finance its global €1.5bn expansion.

Dubbed LIM1, the facility in Limburg has been opened to not only address demand for cloud infrastructure in Germany, but also across Eastern Europe.

The site has a capacity for 45,000 servers and is located less than a millisecond from Frankfurt. From there, it has direct connection to Brussels, Strasbourg and Prague, then towards Paris, Amsterdam, London and Milan.

In addition to the launch, OVH has also unveiled a services package, OVH Discover, designed for customers who want to try out the company's services from new data centre locations.

The company said that each month, depending on the country, new services will be added to the range of products, including: Dedicated Server ranges, VPS, Public Cloud and Private Cloud.

In time, OVH plans to deliver all solutions worldwide, via a unique Control Panel and API, in order to enhance the user experience.

OVH is currently building a datacentre in the United Kingdom and two more in the United States (East and West coast).

When all sites are finished, OVH will operate data centres in 11 countries and four continents, all connected by its own global network, with a current capacity of more than 11 Tbps.

The company has also plans to build facilities in Spain, the Netherlands and Italy.



Private equity investor funds UK data centres in new wave of advanced managed services investments

Brexit fails to halt data centre investments as operators enter a new phase of business evolution beyond pure colocation offerings.

Investment firm Palatine Private Equity has invested in UK-based data centre provider The Bunker, in what is the PE Company's fifth deal out of Palatine's third fund. The Bunker was founded in 1994 and offers services around cloud, colocation and hosting. The operator has also over the years built a knowledge around fintech and the wider financial services sectors.

It has two data centres in England, one in Ash, Kent, and the other in Newbury. Each data centre has a power capacity of just below 2.5MW, however, the sites have the capacity to be expanded by several MWs.

Palatine said in a statement that the current levels of sales activity within the business show a rate of growth that will continue with the company set "to benefit from market headwinds such as GDPR and an ever-greater demand for cyber security services".

In parallel to the new investment and in conjunction with long term business succession planning both Peregrine Newton (CEO) and Andy Theodorou (COO), both co-founders of the business, have decided to step aside.

Consulting director Andy Hague has been named as the new Group CEO, whilst Phil Bindley (CTO) has been promoted into the role of Managing Director with the rest of the Senior Management Team remaining in their current roles.

Speaking to Data Economy, BDO's head of TMT M&A, Robin Brown, said: "When you talk to a lot of British or European [data centre providers] as well as small data centre operators they are unsure at the moment about what they should be doing with their businesses.

"Should they be focusing on just filling up their sites and getting a return from a colocation base; should they be moving into managed services; should they be moving to cybersecurity services; should they be buying or building more small data centres to have a regional play?

"What this investment by Palatine – private equity – into The Bunker is showing, is that there is investor support for data centres to invest in more advanced managed services and cybersecurity

capabilities. Their proposition is offering a technical solution to customers that is greater than just colocation.

"The Bunker is designed to be ultra-secure and what they have done over the year is migrate the business from being just colocation services into managed hosting, disaster recovery, network services and dedicated cloud services. Part of the strategy of the business is to further move into cybersecurity services over time."

With The Bunker based in the UK, uncertainty around Brexit failed to hinder any negotiations, with Brown playing down questions around private equity investors' fears. He said: "One of the interesting implications of some of the UK private equity funds is that the basis underpinning their investment in their funds is that their businesses are UK registered.

"Quite often when they make an investment in Europe it is still being done by a UK registered business. They will set up, even if it is a shell company or a small acquisition, that is still run from the UK, whether over the longer term, you see more and more private equity funds being less constrained by the requirements of a UK registered business is a question that is open, it does not have an answer yet.

"The Brexit effect has not been brought up as a significant impact on why they would or would not invest in the UK." Looking ahead, and with investors showing more interest in the data centre market beyond pure-play colocation, Brown also said the investment carried out by Palatine could spark a wave of private equity investments.

"The private equity I am talking to at the moment are specifically interested in investing in data centres that have made the migration towards managed services," he said.

"Small data centres that are continuing to just do colocation are less attractive. Data centres that are moving into fields like cybersecurity, are worth more to an investor and an investor understands how they can make further acquisitions to grow the business and not be constrained by the footprint of the data centre itself.

"If they have services that are provided to clients that are in the data centre, they can then add additional services that they then can provide to those clients that do not rely solely on the data centre footprint. One example would be GDPR consulting services."

Google European data centres to be fed Norwegian wind power from September



Company fully committed to the use of renewable energy to power its infrastructure back in 2012.

Google's large data centre campuses in Europe are to be powered using renewable energy sourced from Norway starting next September.

A Google spokesman told Reuters the company expects a wind farm currently under construction by Tellnes to be operational and ready to export power to be used in one or several of the web scaler's data centres in the continent.

The project has been developed by Zephyr AS and Norsk Vind Energi AS, while Swedish wind power company Arise will act as the operator of the development.

"We will purchase power as soon as the wind farm becomes fully operational, which we expect will take place in early September 2017," the spokesman said.

The windfarm in Rogaland, south of Stavanger, will amount to 50 turbines with a full power of 160MW which will make it the largest of its kind in Norway and also the biggest farm used by Google in Europe.

Google has entered into a 12-year contract with Tellnes to buy 100% of the power produced. Although Google will wait until September to make use of the plant's output, the first turbine in Rogaland is to be put to work as early as next week.

However, Google will not receive the initial produced power, Zephyr's spokesman Olav Rommetveit said.

"Google will not immediately get the supply. It has an exclusive contract for 12 years and they will begin getting the electricity at some point after commercial operations begins," he said.

Between next week and September, all power produced is set to be directed to the Nord Pool power exchange.

Google has today four data centres in Europe in Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland.

The company has also bought more wind power from farms in Sweden and Denmark, which will bring its power output to 500MW in Europe.

Mega tech giants Facebook, AWS to expand Ireland data centre footprints

Country is on the verge of topping a combined data centre investment of €4.6bn, as construction continues across the island.

The world's largest social media company and the world's largest public cloud operator are both set to invest in their data centre footprints in Ireland.

First, Facebook is reportedly readying to "double down" on its Irish data centre infrastructure by expanding its €200m building in Co Meath, in the northeast of Ireland.

The first facility in Clonee – Facebook's first data centre in the country measuring 31,000 sqm – is still under construction, however, Facebook is said to be reaching out to neighbour landowners to acquire more land around the Clonee campus.

It is also believed that Facebook is currently sourcing construction groups regarding a data centre. Mark Zuckerberg's multinational is also carrying out talks with Irish national electricity grid operator, Eirgrid, about power capacity.

And power is also driving the world's largest public cloud AWS to invest more money into Ireland as the company's €1bn Dublin data centre gains traction.

AWS is working to establish an electricity trading unit in the Irish capital, named Amazon Energy Eoraip, the Irish Independent has found.

The paper said it is unclear what type of electricity trading the unit will be used for, however, it is clearly planned to be used in relation to AWS' data centres.

AWS operates today in Dublin alone nearly ten facilities. In January this year, the provider acquired more land and put forward a building plan to the Fingal County Council in which seeks permission to build a €1bn data centre park also in Dublin, set to be powered resourcing to renewable energy.

The project has however faced opposition from a member of the public, also behind the delay of Apple's €850m data centre in Galway.

Ireland has in the last decade become one of the hottest data centre destinations in Europe, with most web scalers, colocation and wholesale providers building out medium to large footprints across the country.

There are currently several sites under construction or about to break ground, totalling more than €2bn in investment. Third party data centre projects are expected to contribute €740m until 2020, according to BroadGroup's latest report on the country.

Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, AWS and JDC Group are currently the companies investing the most in Ireland.

If Apple is given the go ahead to build its data centre in Galway, and AWS also breaks ground on its Dublin site, the combined amount of data centre investment in Ireland under construction could reach nearly €5bn (€4.6bn).

Apple doubles down on Denmark data centres with \$920m investment

Second data centre in Denmark pushes Apple's data centre developments in the country to \$1.87bn as need to scale services booms amid exponential digital adoption.

Apple has become the third web scaler to announce expansion in Europe in the last 24 hours with the addition of a data centre in Denmark.

The facility, estimated to have a cost of \$920m, will be the company's investment in Denmark alone to \$1.87bn.

The new data centre will sit in a piece of land in Aabenraa, southern Jutland, not far from the company's \$950m data centre in Viborg, central Jutland.

Apple has also said the data centre will be fully powered using renewable energy sources.

The facility is expected to be up and running by 2019, with up to 300 jobs being generated during the construction phase and between 50 to 100 once the data centre is brought online.

The Aabenraa data centre will be used to power the iPhone's maker services such as the App Store, iMessage, artificial intelligence assistant Siri, Maps, and more.

Erik Stannow, business manager at Apple, told Danish news agency Ritzau: "We are pleased to extend our data centre operations in Denmark, while investing in new sources of green energy.

"The planned centre in Aabenraa will, as with all of our data centres, run on clean energy from day one thanks to new energy projects that we will create."

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, said: "The investment success is based on several years of seamless corporation between local and national authorities; the Municipality of Aabenraa, Investment Promotion Association of Western Denmark (FVI) and Invest in Denmark (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

"Denmark is becoming Northern Europe's hub for data centres with a high prospective for growth for the tracking industries delivering solutions to the many data centres sprouting up all over the world."



Vienna grows momentum as data centre portal to Russia



Located at the heart of Europe, Austria's capital is rapidly becoming a must go hotspot for companies in the West and East that are serving both sides of the continent.

In BroadGroup's recent "Data Centres Europe 7" report, the analyst firm highlights the growth of the Austrian market and mainly Vienna as the region seeks to benefit from its proximity and access to Eastern Europe, and particularly Russia.

"Austria is quite an interesting market," said Steve Wallage, MD at BroadGroup Consulting.

"In the last few months we have seen Austria really pick up as a hub into Russia. A lot of investment going into there."

As the largest colocation provider sitting in the Austrian capital, Interxion has already experienced this trend, according to Mike Hollands, director of connectivity.

He said: "Vienna is full of Eastern European and a few Russian networks, and people are using that as a gateway to Eastern Europe, Turkey, and some use it to address Russia.

"Overtime, Vienna has become a very carrier dense location. A lot of the networks that did not want to have to deploy in all the Central-Eastern European countries came to Vienna, and Central-Eastern European networks all came to Vienna to meet them."

Intexion itself works with nearly 110 networks at its Vienna data centre, and about 30 of them are Eastern European.

"It has become the most convenient location to come into a data centre and cross connect all these networks and go where you need to go, and the Russians are taking advantage of that as well," Hollands added.

"The thing about Vienna is that it is seen as Western Europe and it is a way of addressing Eastern Europe and Russia from within Western Europe."



Equinix's Shark Tank in Amsterdam data centre proves industry's role in helping startups

“Amsterdam is always a first stop on the map,” Executive Chairman Peter Van Camp tells Data Economy.

Equinix has cut the ribbon of another International Business Exchange (IBX) data centre, this time in the Dutch capital.

The Amsterdam facility in the city's Science Park has been named AM4 and represents a capital expenditure of \$113m.

The initial phase of AM4 includes space for 1,555 cabinets and is planned to have four expansion phases.

At full build, the vertical facility will represent a total investment of \$189m and provide 4,200 cabinets across eight floors with more than 125,000 gross sqf of data centre space.

The colocation provider has in the Amsterdam region 700 customers which have access to over 150 network service providers and to a cloud ecosystem which includes CSPs such as AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Microsoft Azure, Microsoft Office 365, Oracle, and IBM Softlayer.

Peter Van Camp, executive chairman of Equinix, told Data Economy: “Amsterdam really is a very important market. Its digital proximity to all of Europe is very attractive to any company that is starting a digital strategy in Europe.

“It is always a first stop on the map. The upside of our opportunity has just been very positive here.”

Building on the idea that Amsterdam is a good place to start a digital strategy, Equinix, StartupAmsterdam, StartupDelta and DutchBasecamp came together to create the Equinix Shark Tank, which took place during the opening ceremony of the data centre.

Based on ABC's Shark Tank series, Equinix's version saw four companies – Autheos, Incision Care, Storro and InBeacon – taking to the stage to pitch their ideas.

Van Camp was one of the members of the judging panel, alongside Gary Hromadko, Venture Capital & Private Equity professional at Crosslink Capital, and Michiel Eielts, Managing Director Equinix Benelux.

The panel selected Storro as the winning startup. Storro enables team members to cooperate without the use of the cloud or other central components and only saves data with the people who work together.

“This winner in front of me will have the strength to go and build a company. We had four companies here in Amsterdam with great ideas, coming forward to pitch them,” said Van Camp.

Storro received a study trip to Silicon Valley, access to Equinix data centres for a year, a year-long support of an Equinix Solution Architect and introduction to different investors from Silicon Valley.

Equinix's Shark Tank was not the only topic being discussed at the event. As with most new data centre builds, Equinix's latest Amsterdam hub has been projected to not only make use of the natural resources around it, but also to give back to the local community.

Van Camp said: “Sustainability and what the environmental impact would be is an important aspect on how we decide what we build in data centres.

“We got a very unique environmental footprint in Amsterdam. The North Sea is below sea level, a bit of a distance below us, but we are able to leverage that for the cooling of data centres.

“We bring cold water up from underneath and right here in Science Park, the university next door, will use that water after it is increased in temperature – this is in the winter time – then lead that into the university so it can be used in their heating.

“This new tower in the property we own here gets to enjoy that environment as well.”

Google buys data centre power from Netherlands' largest solar energy park

Web scaler has set out plans to power all its infrastructure resource to renewable energies as the green data centre trend takes off.

Google has signed a ten-year contract with Eneco to buy all the energy produced at the largest solar energy park in the Netherlands, Sunport Delfzijl, to power its Dutch data centre.

The investment is Google's second with Eneco and the fourth on renewable energy in the Netherlands.

Google runs a data centre in Eemshaven since 2016. The facility was built at a cost of €600m and is part of a network of four European data centres operated by Google.

The Sunport Delfzijl plant amounts to 30 hectares covered with 123,000 solar panels.

The site is capable of delivering approximately 27 Gigawatt Hours of electricity.

Bram Poeth, director of Eneco Commercial Clients, said: "Google is forward-thinking to use locally generated solar and wind energy to power its data centre.

"Google leads the way in providing a good example for the commercial sector, where we see a strong growth of the demand for sustainable energy.



"We are proud that we are able to contribute to making this possible. It is completely in line with our aim to connect our customers directly to local sustainable sources."

Marc Oman, EU Energy Lead at Google, said: "We are proud that our data centre in the Eemshaven has been powered by renewable energy since day one thanks to our agreements with Dutch suppliers.

"After the agreement with Eneco for the delivery of wind energy from WindPark Delfzijl and the agreements with the wind parks Krammer and Bouwdokken, we are pleased that we can now also make use of solar energy.

"Worldwide, we have already contracted the delivery of 2.7 GW of green electricity, which makes Google the world's largest corporate purchaser of renewable energy. Contracts like this give companies like Eneco the economic certainty to invest in new renewable energy capacity."

H&M proves purpose of global retailers in data centre management

Company is expanding its Nordic presence while making use of excess heat to heat up 2,500 properties.

Global fashion retailer H&M has unveiled plans to build a 1MW data centre in the Swedish capital which will see excess energy being drawn into the city's power grid for consumer use.

The facility is scheduled to be brought online in 2018 and is part of a data centre expansion carrier out by H&M which has operated its own data centres in Stockholm since 2013.

The extra energy from the hub is expected to be used for heating purposes by up to 2,500 residential apartments at full load.

Energy firm Fortum Värme has been tasked with distributing the extra energy.

The solution chosen by H&M uses heat pumps in an N+1 configuration. Excess energy is fed directly from the data centre to the district heating network at the required temperature.

According to Stockholm Data Parks, close to 90% of all buildings in Stockholm are connected to the district heating network.

The Swedish capital is one of the few cities in the world where large-scale heat reuse from major data centres is currently happening.

Earlier in January, Stockholm Data Parks announced its objective to meet 10% of the city's heating needs through heat recovery.

Jan Lundin, head of H&M data centres, said: "IT is at the core of H&M's business, and it is important for us to be as sustainable as possible in everything we do.

"Just as we collect second hand clothes for reuse and recycling, it will be imperative for future data centres to recover excess heat."

Erik Rylander, Head of Stockholm Data Parks at Fortum Värme, said: "It is fantastic that a growing number of companies are connecting their systems to our district heating network and stop wasting data centre excess heat.

"I am particularly thrilled that H&M, which has been gaining experience of heat recovery in recent years, has decided to design its data centre with a redundant cooling and heat recovery solution from the outset.

"It is smart and profitable, and together we can make Stockholm even more sustainable."

AWS will open data centres in South Africa



Company currently operates 43 availability zones across the globe, with 16 active regions and several more planned to come into operation soon.

The world's fastest growing public cloud provider AWS has spoken out for the first time on the possibility of launching data centres in South Africa.

The intention to build its own infrastructure in the continent was unveiled by Amazon CTO Werner Vogels while speaking to Business Live.

The executive said the company is currently working on understanding the region's demand, not only in South Africa, but across the whole of the region.

However, Werner did not give away any dates for when the data centres would be built.

He said: "We have a lot of customers here already, especially when it comes to young business, (...) but also larger companies, before opening up a region here."

AWS has today 43 operational availability zones across 16 regions where data centres power its cloud services.

The company has announced plans to open 11 new availability zones in the coming years, as well as four new regions. However, none of the announced regions concern Africa.

AWS' intention to build infrastructure in the most southern country of the African continent follows on from Microsoft's announcement back in May when the Azure giant announced it will be opening in 2018 two data centres in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Sonatel opens 38,000 sqf data centre in Senegal

Company says facility will help the country build up its digital economy and is in line with the government's plans to make Senegal a digital hub by 2025.

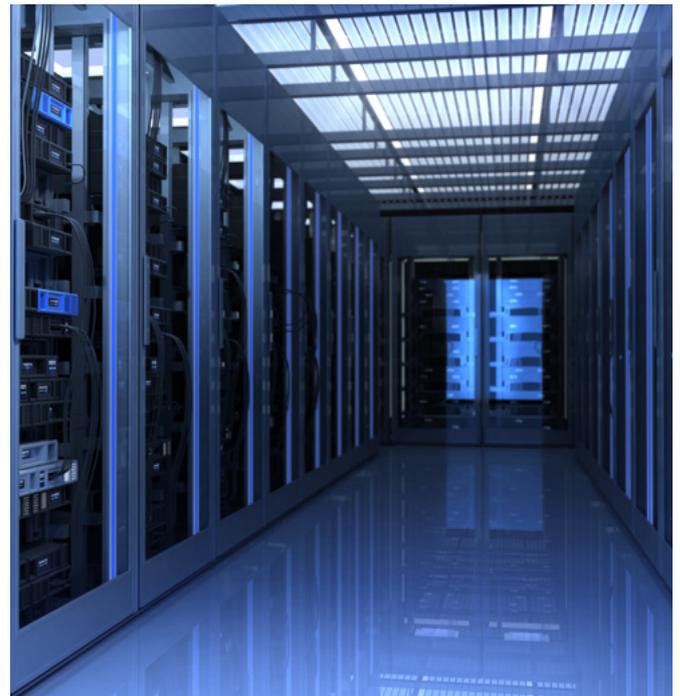
Telecommunications services provider Sonatel has opened a data centre in Rufisque, Senegal, in a boost to local IT infrastructure set to be used by public and private enterprises.

The data centre sits in a piece of land measuring 3.5 hectares and has a total square footage of 37,674 sqf with colocation space amounting to 24,000 sqf.

Sonatel invested \$17.4m (10bn CFA Francs) to build the infrastructure. The facility was opened by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Yaya Abdoul Kane, and Sonatel's GM Alioune Ndiaye.

The Tier 3+ data centre was labelled by the company as a crucial asset for Senegal's governmental plans to become an African digital hub by 2025.

The Sonatel data centre houses the IT servers needed to produce and manage services for the provider as well as those of its customers which operate in mobile telephony, Internet, television, cloud computing and business services.





AMERICAS

Cloud wars drive Microsoft to lay off thousands of staff

Announcement expected in days as global cloud spending is projected to grow to \$162bn by the end of this decade.

Global public cloud provider Microsoft is reportedly readying the dismissal of thousands of employees across its regions to focus its salesforce on cloud technologies.

Speaking to TechCrunch, a source said the layoffs are expected to be announced this week or next, as well as the merger of Microsoft's enterprise customer unit with one or more of the company's divisions targeted at the SME space.

The news follows on from reports published last week by several US media who also cited sources who had spoken out on the major reorganisation.

Puget Sound Business Journal wrote that the global sales restructuring was imminent so that Microsoft could direct more of its efforts towards its cloud business.

The people familiar with the matter said the change would affect the Worldwide Commercial Business under Judson Althoff and Jean-Philippe Courtois' global sales and marketing group.

The source continued to say the changes to be announced soon will be some of the most significant in the sales force in years.

The major sales realignment comes at a time when IDC projects global cloud spending to top \$162bn by 2020, from \$67bn in 2015.

Overall, the worldwide public cloud services market is expected to grow 18% from 2016 to 2017, achieving a market cap of \$246.8bn, according to Gartner.

Microsoft has until now been lagging behind the world's largest cloud provider AWS, however, its move to reshape its salesforce around cloud sales could prove game changing.

Back in March, investment-banking think tank Pacific Crest Securities' Brent Bracelin lowered Amazon's price target from \$905 to \$895 as the company faces fiercer competition in its cloud business, mainly from competitors such as Azure.



Axtel launches \$68m Mexican data centre investment plan



Company has today a footprint consisting of 39,000Km of optic fibre, more than 100,000 sqf of data centre space and eight operational centres.

Telecommunications provider Axtel has unveiled plans to invest up to \$68m in the building out of data centre facilities in Mexico.

The first round of capital expenditure has now delivered a \$24.7m data centre at the Parque Tecnológico Innovación Querétaro, in north-central Mexico.

The remaining cash flow will be used to expand and build facilities over the next two years.

The 38,750 sqf data centre in Querétaro is the company's sixth following sites in Monterrey, Querétaro, Guadalajara and Mexico City.

Andrés Cordovez Ferretto, executive director of infrastructure and operations at Axtel, said: "These investments will allow us to continuously consolidate our position of leadership in the Mexican data centre market.

"Our operational model is unique in Mexico as, in addition to being able to service mission critical workloads, it is based on a modular scheme which allows the personalisation of services according to the industry that will be using them."

Axtel's data centre announcement comes at a time when analysts at IDC reported a 40% growth in 2016 of data centre outsourcing deals in Mexico.

The market was in at the end of last year worth \$4.6m, with outsourcing representing 40% of this value, dedicate projects amounting to 36%, and support services totalling 25%.

The growth of the market is propelling further data centre expansion not only from telecommunication services providers but also colocation.

Recently, Brazilian colocation company Odata has also announced plans to open its first data centre in Mexico in the near future.

Cloud Carib announces aggressive data centre expansion across LATAM

Company sets out plan to build more than five data centres until the end of 2017.

Cloud services provider Cloud Carib has unveiled plans to open several data centres across Latin America and the Caribbean region as cloud adoption soars. The company is to launch a data centre in Panama, with further builds planned for Barbados and Jamaica.

Cloud Carib has also projects to build data centres in Trinidad, Cayman, and other locations before the end of 2017. The provider said all Cloud Carib data centres are operated in alignment of international standards with service supported by the Cloud Carib Service Management Framework.

According to the company, the necessity to build out its data centre footprint, which at the moment consists of two data centres in the islands of Nassau and Freeport, came down to the regions geographical advantages around "an explosion of organisations interested in cloud services provided throughout the Bahamas and Caribbean region".

Scott MacKenzie, Chief Commercial Officer at Cloud Carib, said: "Our strategic expansion demonstrates our continuing commitment to clients that we're delivering best in-class services directly to them and allowing our clients to choose a location that best suits their needs.

"We are helping clients design a solution for them, not providing cookie cutter solutions and forcing them to work within those constraints – Cloud Carib is dedicated to service excellence for our clients."

Angola Cables breaks ground on multi-million Dollar South America data centre

Facility part of a \$300m investment plan that will see the African operator build two subsea cables and the hosting facility.

Angola Cables has begun the construction of a large Tier 3 data centre in Fortaleza, Brazil, five weeks after it secured \$130m to finance the project. The data centre is expected to be brought online by Q1 2018 and is being built as the company also lays two subsea cables in the Atlantic: one connecting Africa to Latin America, and the other linking Latin America to North America.

The data centre site sits at the Praia do Futuro (in English: The Beach of the Future), and will amount to 10,000 sqm, of which 3,000 sqm will be dedicated to server rooms. The company has also announced that several clients have bought space at the facility, including Claranet, Amlight and the Prefeitura de Fortaleza (Fortaleza's Town Hall).

António Nunes, CEO of Angola Cables, says: "We were delighted to be a part of the ceremony to mark the start of the building of the centre. This is a Brazilian tradition we were honoured to share in. "The [cable] systems will enhance Africa's global communications networks, provide a 'meet me' point with high connectivity and access to larger markets. They will also deliver the lowest latency routing between Africa and South America."



ASIA PACIFIC

Apple to open China data centre in \$1bn investment

American multinational first foreign entity to erect infrastructure on Chinese soil as the country's new cybersecurity laws come into force.

Apple is to open a data centre in China to support its services locally and abide by the country's latest cybersecurity laws. The facility will be built in the province of Guizhou in partnership with Guizhou-Cloud Big Data Industry (GCBD), a Chinese data management company.

Apple said in a statement: "The addition of this data centre will allow us to improve the speed and reliability of our products and services while also complying with newly passed regulations.

"These regulations require cloud services be operated by Chinese companies so we are partnering with GCBD to offer iCloud."

A Shanghai-based Apple spokesman told Reuters the renewable energy powered data centre is part of an overall \$1bn investment into Guizhou. China has introduced on June 1, tighter regulations on how citizens' data is handled by services providers.

Announced in November 2016, the China National People's Congress revised law requires that any organisation defined as having "critical information infrastructure" must securely store and manage all personal data collected from Chinese citizens within the borders of China.

Penalties for non-compliance range from financial fines to operational suspension and criminal liability.

Apple said it plans to move all Chinese citizens' data from data centres elsewhere, to the data centre in Guizhou in the coming months. "No backdoors will be created into any of our systems," Apple continued in the released statement.

The Chinese data centre comes days after Apple announced plans to build a second \$920m data centre in Denmark. The first building, announced in 2015, is expected to be operational by the end of 2017. Meanwhile, the company is still awaiting a final decision from Irish authorities on its €850m data centre projected for Galway.

The facility, announced in February 2015, has faced since then objection from a small number of citizens which took the case to the Commercial Court in Dublin.

Following Apple's announcement on the Danish data centre, in Ireland, many voiced their disappointment with the country's delay on deciding on Apple's project. The president of the Galway Chamber has joined others in expressing his concern over the delays to the construction of the data centre.

Maurice O'Gorman said he is concerned about the possible impact the delay could have for the region, and that the development would be a significant boost to the local economy, also becoming a magnetic to similar initiatives in the future. A final decision is expected to be announced on July 27, 2017, in Dublin.



Equinix doubles capacity at Sydney data centre in fourth major APAC expansion

Capital expenditure in the Asian-Pacific market is on the rise as companies embrace cloud and demand for more connectivity.

Equinix has unveiled plans to expand its data centre footprint in Sydney, in what will be the company's fourth major expansion in the APAC region in recent months. The services provider said capital expenditure allocated to the SY4 International Business Exchange (IBX) site in the Australian capital ascends to \$42m, which will add 1,500 cabinets to the site bringing its total capacity to 3,000.

The total usable floor space will reach 130,000 sqf once the expansion is completed. SY4 was originally opened in August 2016, and is part of an Equinix campus of four buildings in Sydney including SY1, SY2 and SY3. The campus has direct access to submarine cable systems, including the Southern Cross Cable Head, the PIPE Pacific Cable. In addition, SY4 will be geared up to become the landing point for the soon to be launched Hawaiki cable.

In addition to Sydney, Equinix also runs a data centre in Melbourne. The expansion in the capital follows on from four other recent expansions in the region in Melbourne, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore. Jeremy Deutsch, managing director, Equinix Australia, said: "An interconnection-first strategy for IT is now central to realising digital transformation, and Australia is fast becoming an interconnection hot spot.

"Today, we are already supporting more than 100 local and multinational companies in SY4. Our investment in SY4



demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing the most robust architecture and interconnection options that allow customers to accelerate business relationships and speed to market."

In a recent Equinix survey of 1,000 global IT decision makers, it was found that Australia is one of the leading countries pursuing interconnection services. This drive towards greater interconnection makes a significant bottom-line impact on businesses and markets, as 40% of interconnected Australian companies have realised more than \$10m in revenue opportunities and cost savings, Equinix's survey found.

Some 86% of enterprises use the cloud and, with cloud players like Amazon, Google and Microsoft, Australia is already the largest Infrastructure-as-a-Service market in the Asia-Pacific region.

Equinix's Australian clients and partners amount today to 725 companies, including over 155 Network Service Providers (NSPs) and more than 275 Cloud Service Providers (CSPs). The data centre operator has 29 IBX data centres in Asia-Pacific and a total global footprint of 179 IBX facilities across 44 markets.

Equinix's Sydney data centre turns APAC hub for global cloud provider

Australian hub becomes Equinix's fifth facility to offer such service, globally.

After two data centre launches in Europe, Equinix is now expanding its services footprint in APAC with the addition of Oracle's cloud to its Sydney, Australia, International Business Exchange (IBX) data centre. Available via Oracle Cloud Network Service – FastConnect and the Equinix Cloud Exchange, access will be available for Oracle Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) as well as Platform as a Service (PaaS).

By adding Oracle Cloud to its Australian IBX, the two companies have created an architecture from which enterprise customers can migrate compute, applications and data to Oracle Cloud. The addition of Sydney brings the total number of markets that Equinix is offering private access to Oracle Cloud to five, globally, with more set to be added in the future.

The collaboration between Oracle and Equinix comes at a time when 67% of Australian organisations are embracing cloud, using public or private cloud for more than one or two applications or workloads, according to IDC, which has also found this not to be exclusive to Australia.

Robert Blackburn, Global Managing Director, Oracle strategic alliance, Equinix, said: "The ability to connect directly to Oracle is an essential strategy for companies as they deploy workloads to

the cloud. "By providing direct access, our mutual customers can create a high-speed, dedicated, and low-latency connection that allows them to fully realise the benefits of hybrid deployment.

"We look forward to ongoing collaborations with Oracle, bringing this solution to additional Equinix data centres across the globe." Jeremy Deutsch, Managing Director, Equinix Australia, said: "With interconnection emerging as a catalyst of revenue growth for many Australian businesses, being able to securely and directly connect to cloud and network services is critical.

"Our goal at Equinix has always been to help our enterprise customers realize the full benefits of the cloud – without worrying about application latency or cost issues."

Rob Willis, Managing Director, Oracle Australia, said: "This collaboration further expands our existing cloud offering, which already includes local delivery of applications, platform and infrastructure services from within Australia, as well as via the Public Cloud and through our unique Cloud at Customer offer – which is like putting the public cloud in your own data centre.

"The availability of the new Sydney Region is already accelerating the faster adoption of services locally, as well as throughout the rest of APAC, given its proximity to Sydney as a hub. It helps us continue our commitment to giving customers unprecedented choice and flexibility in how they work and making the adoption of cloud as easy as possible."

Equinix invests \$42m to expand Singapore data centre

Development adds to recent expansions in Melbourne, Tokyo and Hong Kong, as APAC's cloud hungry businesses demand is predicted to grow even more.

Equinix has unveiled plans to invest \$41.8m in the expansion of its SG2 data centre in Singapore as enterprises continue to migrate in mass to cloud based environments.

The build will add 1,400 cabinets and 47,666 sqf of colocation space, bringing the total operational capacity of the International Business Exchange (IBX) data centre to 6,300 cabinets.

Equinix said the expanded capacity of SG2 will address rising market demands for direct connect to cloud service providers – including Amazon Web Services, Oracle Cloud, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform – through Equinix Cloud Exchange (ECX).

The SG2 data centre and the two other Equinix data centres (SG1 and SG3) currently serve as a hub for more than 535 companies around the world.

Equinix has in total 29 IBX data centres in Asia-Pacific. Its total global footprint covers 179 IBX data centres across 44 markets.

Clement Goh, managing director, Equinix South Asia, said: "The expansion of SG2 reinforces Singapore's position as Asia-Pacific's network hub, a gateway market for businesses looking to expand or make their first move into Southeast Asia.

"By increasing the operational capacity of the data center, customers will have a greater choice for interconnection to thrive at the digital edge in well-established business ecosystems. Furthermore, Equinix has all its Singapore data centres Green Mark certified."

Also commenting on the expansion, Yu Xuan Ng, industry analyst, digital transformation, Frost & Sullivan, said that Equinix's strong presence and growing business in APAC can be attributed to its product and go-to-market strategies.

Ng said: "Equinix has focused on investments in Platform Equinix, a colocation and interconnection platform that extends its data centres globally. This serves as a key differentiator enabling its customers to interconnect with one other within a rich business ecosystem.

"The expansion of SG2 in Singapore is truly a testament to Equinix's strong commitments to growth in the Asia-Pacific region and a result of a strong ecosystem strategy."

Sri Lanka's first Tier III data centre put to work

Data centre built in Digital Media Hub is set to boost services to nearly one million people across the country, as well as offer colocation services to enterprises and government.



Connectivity provider Dialog Axiata Group has announced the opening of Sri Lanka's first Tier III data centre in Malabe.

The data centre has been built to provide IT infrastructure to Dialog's media hub which houses a Satellite Earth Station.

The data centre and media hub were launched by Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure Harin Fernando and Managing Director/President and Group Chief Executive Officer of Axiata Group Berhad, Tan Sri Jamaludin Ibrahim.

Dialog's TIER III Data Centre has been developed to expand the company's hosting and colocation services alongside a suite of cloud services to Sri Lanka's enterprise and government sectors.

The operator said the data centre is expected to "significantly enhance Sri Lanka's digital infrastructure by aligning the country's hosting and co-location facilities to Global TIER III standards".

The Dialog Media Hub co-located at the data centre premises in Malabe consists of Sri Lanka's largest Satellite Earth Station and a Network Monitoring Centre that supports the broadcast of over 130 international and local channels delivering infotainment, sports, movies, music, news and religious programmes to over 900,000 subscribers across the country.

Dialog Axiata Group Chief Executive Officer Supun Weerasinghe, said: "It is indeed a proud achievement for us at Dialog Axiata Group to launch the first tier III Data Centre and Media Hub in the country, and to spearhead the acceleration of our nation's digitization agenda.

"The launch of our new state-of-the-art Dialog Data Centre and Media Hub together with our investments in the 100G – plus Bay of Bengal Gateway Submarine fibre-optic network which delivers the single largest infusion of bandwidth which will ensure that Sri Lanka's enterprise and government sectors will have the most secure and scalable infrastructure to position Sri Lanka as a leader in the digital era."

China Telecom to expand hosting footprint in Hong Kong and USA

Network expansion set to bolster operator's trans-Pacific infrastructure to support bandwidth demand sparked by the digital transformation economy.

China Telecom has announced it will expand its Hong Kong data centre footprint as well as increase the number of points of presence in North America.

In Asia, a 45,000 sqm, 70MVA Global Switch data centre in Tseung Kwan O is currently under construction and is expected to be operational by Q4 2017.

China Telecom will build, operate and manage colocation areas for one of the new buildings within the development.

The announcement on added capacity in Hong Kong follows a cooperation agreement signed in April by China Telecom, Global Switch and Daily-Tech.

The arrangement means China Telecom can use Global Switch's data centre capacity outside mainland China.

Also in April 2017, the company had expanded its Shatin data centre in Hong Kong with the addition of one new floor for increased server capacity.

Across the Pacific, the telecommunications provider's American business arm, China Telecom Americas, has widened its network coverage in North America with three new PoPs: one at Viawest's Hillsboro, Oregon, data centre, another at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME Group) Facility in Aurora, Illinois, and a third at Cologix's Montreal, Quebec, facility.

These moves come as 35% of enterprises in data-heavy industries are predicted to embrace formal data centre organisation and governance by 2018, with the digital transformation economy increasingly demanding isolated, lights-out server rooms, the company said.

Joe Han, China Telecom Americas president, said: "China Telecom is proud to be enhancing its Hong Kong data centre portfolio with the expansion of its best-in-class Shatin facility and the addition of a new site at Tseung Kwan O in partnership with Global Switch.

"Equally, we look forward to China Telecom Americas' points of presence in Oregon and Illinois playing a key role in our North American data transmission and end-to-end network services.

"Our customers are innovators, who rely on our network solutions to help their businesses grow. China Telecom's latest investment in Hong Kong data centres and North America points of presence means our customers can expect reliable, low-latency, worldwide connectivity. This will enable them to deploy applications fast and flexibly."

Southeast Asia data centre market to more than double by 2021



Key market segments in the region today are IT infrastructure, server market and UPSs, all expected to grow substantially.

The multi-billion dollar Southeast Asia data centre market is posed for a deep growth, more than doubling its value in the next four years.

According to Technavio, the region's compound annual growth rate (CAGR) from 2017 to 2021 is calculated at 14%.

However, the figure translates into a slight slowdown in expected growth, as a report from Technavio in 2016 predicted the market to increase 20% on a CAGR basis between 2016 and 2020.

The key market segments in the region today are IT infrastructure, server market and UPSs.

The Southeast Asia IT infrastructure market was in 2016 valued at \$6.28bn. Technavio's report also estimates the data centre server market to grow at a CAGR of 13.4%.

As for the UPS segment, this is expected to reach a market value of \$490m by 2021.

Rohan Joy Thomas, a lead analyst at Technavio for data centre research, said: "The data centre market in Southeast Asia is projected to grow at a CAGR of nearly 14% over the forecast period.

"The increase in the demand for cloud-based services is a key factor driving the market growth."

Analysts have also listed the top eight data centre vendors operating in the region.

These include AWS, Digital Realty Trust, Equinix, Google, Microsoft, NTT Communications, Singtel, and telecommunications and digital services provider Philippine Long Distance Telephone.

EVENTS

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

18th – 21st September 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Cape Town, South Africa

5th – 9th November 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Barcelona, Spain

7th – 8th November 2017

DatacenterDynamics Zettastructure
London, United Kingdom

15th – 16th November 2017

Data Centre World – Paris
Paris, France

Website in French



21st September 2017 Datacloud Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

As Dublin is proposed as the next Tier 1 city in Europe, the forum highlights the unique value of data centre, cloud and IT infrastructure across Ireland.

International enterprises, local providers, investment agency and power supply companies meet to network and collaborate in the next stage of Ireland's successful hosting of IT infrastructure.

As the gateway to Europe Ireland holds a unique position as being home to the EMEA headquarters of many large tech companies and can now serve as connector between the United States and Europe.



EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

28th – 29th November 2017

Data Centre World – Frankfurt
Frankfurt, Germany

27th – 28th November

Gartner Data Centre Infrastructure &
Operations Management Summit
London, United Kingdom

5th December 2017

DatacenterDynamics – Turkey
Istanbul, Turkey

TBA

DatacenterDynamics Energy Smart
Amsterdam, Netherlands



30th October 2017

Datacloud Nordic, Oslo, Norway

Datacloud Nordic brings together all-important contacts to promote your products and services to a highly targeted audience.

The forum highlights the unique value of locating or outsourcing data centre, cloud and IT infrastructure across the important and fast growing nordic region.



AMERICAS

26th – 27th September

DatacentreDynamics – Mexico
Mexico City, Mexico

Website in Spanish

1st – 5th October 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Orlando, FL

18th October 2017

DatacentreDynamics – Peru
Lima, Peru

Website in Spanish

23rd – 26th October 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Website in Portuguese



26th September 2017

DatacenterDynamics Colo + Cloud, Dallas, TX

DCD >Colo + Cloud is the global IT business and technology leadership forum for those who offer 3rd-party hosting, colo, telco, cloud data center, and managed services provision.

This conference is for all senior executives involved in the commissioning, design, build, and operation of colo, cloud, and telco data center capacity.



AMERICAS

30th – 31st October 2017

DatacenterDynamics – Brazil
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Website in Portuguese

15th November 2017

DatacenterDynamics – Chile
Santiago, Chile

Website in Spanish

14th December 2017

DatacenterDynamics
Connected Canada 4.0
Toronto, Canada



4th–7th December 2017

Gartner Data Centre Infrastructure & Operations Management Summit, Las Vegas, NV

The Premier Destination for Infrastructure, Operations Management and Data Center Leaders. Enterprise transformation is the new imperative for the data center, infrastructure and operations, the impetus for business-driven strategies and investments.

This conference features comprehensive tracks around the biggest challenges IT infrastructure and operations leaders.



ASIA PACIFIC

20th – 21st September 2017

DatacenterDynamics Zettastructure
Singapore

11th – 12th October 2017

Data Centre World Asia
Singapore

30th October – 2nd November 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Gold Coast, Australia



2nd November 2017

DatacenterDynamics
Hyperscale China
Beijing, China

An international event for professionals involved in the design and delivery of hyperscale digital infrastructure that supports the zetta-byte economy.

DCD>Hyperscale is a full-throttle, full-stack infrastructure ecosystem strategy and operations (StratOps) conference. We call it Mud to Cloud. Hyperscalers set the tone for both the physical and logical data centre.



ASIA PACIFIC

31st October – 2nd November 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Tokyo, Japan

9th November 2017

DatacenterDynamics Enterprise
Mumbai, India

13th – 16th November 2017

Gartner Symposium ITXPO
Goa, India



10th November 2017

DatacenterDynamics Converged, Hong Kong

The continuing evolution of Hong Kong's digital landscape in the realms of Cloud, connectivity, data centre and outsourcing, presents new opportunities for organisations looking to align their IT infrastructure with their strategic needs.

With increasing demands for digitization, in the light of land scarcity, find out how international and local organizations meet their infrastructure needs in an innovative manner.



Contact us

TRANSACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Colo & new build site finding- Acquisition, disposal & marketing- Sale & lease back	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leasing and service (SLA & KPI) agreements- Market analysis- Benchmarking
CONSULTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Country & Region analysis- Total cost of ownership (TCO) analysis- Total cost of occupation (TCOO) analysis- Product development- Planning strategy- Permissions and approvals- Power & communication studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Capital allowances- Benchmarking- Rent reviews- Lease negotiations- Property taxes- Planning applications
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Operation 24/7 x 365- Planned and preventive maintenance/ inspection- Estate & fabric maintenance- Warranty management- Asset management- Energy management- Project management- FMECA/RAM/ENERGY analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- FM operating concepts- Handover and acceptance Documentation- Contractor management- Incident management / Reporting- Business continuity management (BCM)- Physical security- HSEQ / Environmental Management- Fire protection

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