

GOOGLE CLOUD CHIEF SAYS DATA CENTRES ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT AMAZON ... BUT ONLY BY 2022

A night view of a canal in Amsterdam. The sky is filled with stars and the Milky Way. The buildings along the canal are illuminated from within, showing warm yellow and orange lights. The water in the canal reflects the lights from the buildings and the sky. There are several boats docked along the canal.

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DATASOURCE

06/2017



Chris Jones
Head of Data Centres
GVA

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Our core services

Datasource captures the important news and trends affecting data centre occupiers. The magazine is intended to share key issues and events in our sector with those who are not experts in the industry but whose business is dependent upon it.

GVA is a leading expert in the data centre market and have been for the last 17 years. We specialise in analysing, acquiring and marketing technical space from development land right through to shell & core, operational facilities and colocation suites.

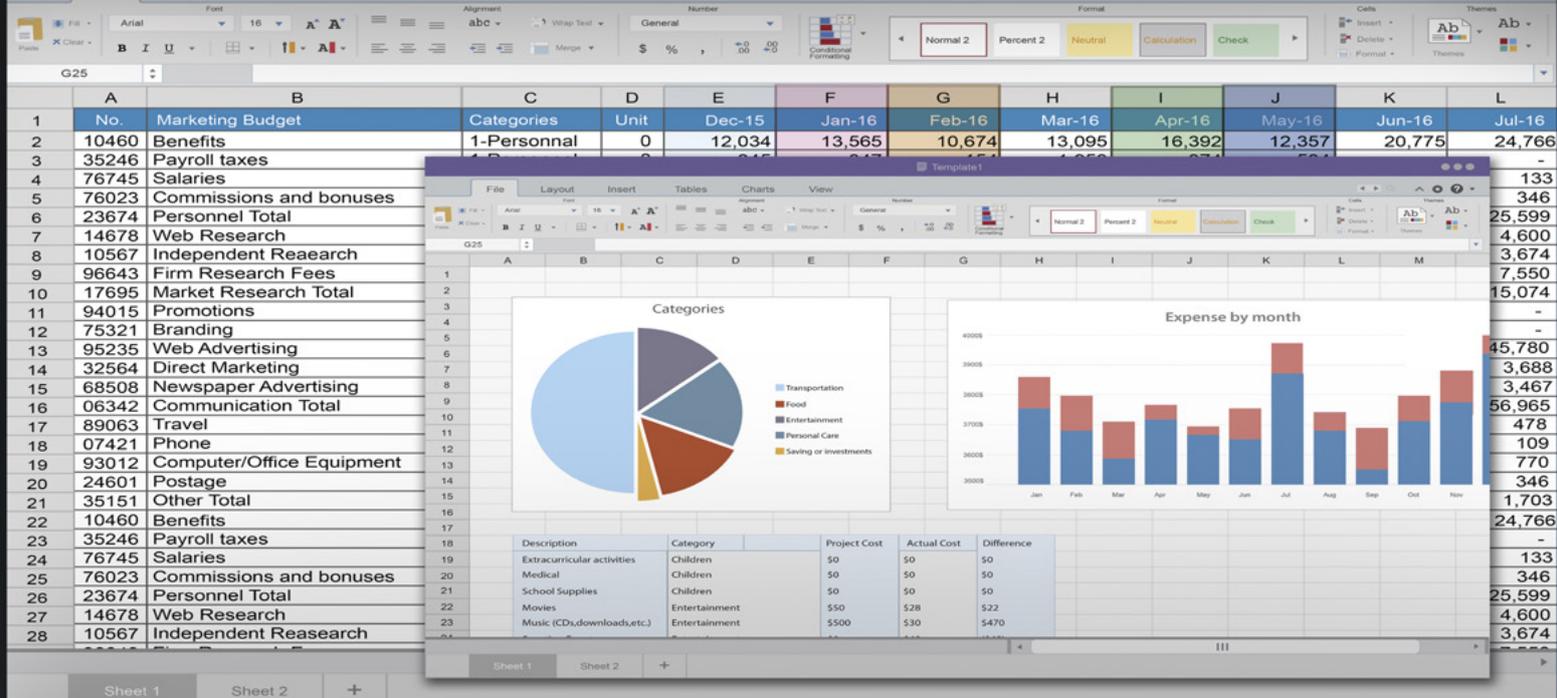
Apleona incorporates the real estate and facility management expertise of GVA and HSG as market leading brands in European data centre property.

We are active in more than 30 countries across 5 continents with a broad portfolio of services for real estate and facilities generating €2.5 billion with 22,000 employees.

We work for a full spectrum of public and private sector clients from government entities to investment banks and from data centre providers to property developers.

How can we help you?





World

7 in 10 organisations boost data centre budgets for 2017

And despite rapid adoption of cloud, enterprise owned data centres are still the most used computing venue.

The growing relevance of data centres to any business is driving budgets up as spending increases to keep up with innovation and corporate needs.

According to the Uptime Institute's survey of more than 1,000 data centre executives and end users, compared to 2016, nearly 75% of companies' data centre budgets have increased or stayed consistent this year.

The survey has also found that enterprise-owned data centres are still the primary compute venue for businesses, with respondents reporting that nearly two-thirds of their IT assets are currently deployed in their own facilities.

Twenty-two percent said they deploy in colocation or multi-tenant data centre providers, and 13% deploy in the cloud. The percentage of workloads residing in enterprise-owned/operated data centres has remained stable at 65% since 2014, despite the rising adoption of cloud environments.

The majority of companies (68%) rely on IT-based resiliency while 73% of respondents said they are not deploying lower redundancy physical data centre sites despite increased adoption of IT-based resilience.

More than 90% of data centre and IT professionals believe their corporate management is more concerned about outages now than they were just a year ago. Yet, only 60% report that they measure the cost of downtime as a business metric.

Matt Stansberry, senior director of content and publications at Uptime Institute, said: "The survey findings reflect several key trends that are acting together as a powerful catalyst for change within the industry. "Increased performance at the processor level, further expansion of server virtualisation, and the adoption of cloud computing have all created an IT foundation that differs greatly from those seen just 5 years ago.

"Through this change, enterprise-owned data centres have remained a central component. We urge data centre and IT professionals to focus on the business aspects of running their IT foundation, creating sets of repeatable processes to make it work efficiently and adopting new technologies and solutions when the business demands it."



Google cloud chief says data centres are good enough to beat amazon (but only by 2022)

Google is the latest cloud giant to step into the cloud war arena following Oracle and AWS stances recently.

Diane Greene, Google's Senior Vice President has told an audience that the company will be able to catch up with Amazon by 2022 the latest.

Speaking at Forbes CIO Summit, she said: "I think we have a pretty good shot at being #1 in five years. I actually think we have a huge advantage in our data centres, in our infrastructure, availability, security and how we automate things. We just have not packaged it up perfectly yet."

Google's Cloud Platform has today seven active regions, 20 zones and over 100 points of presence. Each of the active regions has data centres operating. These include: four in Iowa (US), three in Saint Carolina (US), three in Belgium, three in Tokyo (Japan), three in Taiwan, two in Oregon (US) and two in Singapore.

In addition, the company has plans to open ten more regions across all regions – except Africa –, in the US, Brazil, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, India and Australia.

Further expansion is expected as the company has just acquired a piece-of-land measuring 1,200 acres which will be used for the construction of a data centre campus. However, no schedule has been set on when the works would start.

Google is also rumored to be eyeing a large data centre development in Sweden, which a power input of 100MW. Greene said: "Google is just built for having the most technology. That is what we are good at, and that is who we have hired."

In comparison, rival AWS operates 42 Availability Zones through 42 data centres in 16 regions including in Europe, Asia Pacific, China, South America, Canada, US East, US West and a US government – AWS GovCloud – region.

In addition, AWS is also currently setting up new data centres in Paris (France), Ningxia (China) and Stockholm (Sweden).



Colt builds bridge between US, Europe and Asia data centres

Partnerships across the Atlantic will enable customers on both sides of the ocean to tap into data centres in the three regions.

Colt Data Centre Services (DCS) has announced it has expanded its customer referral programme into the US, which will see the operator partner with US-based partners to provide customers with access to data centre facilities beyond Europe and Asia.

Colt DCS provides partners and their customers with data centre capacity and carrier-neutral colocations services in 29 data centres across Europe and Asia.

In return, Colt DCS' customers will gain access to US-based data centres to expand their global reach.

Matt Cantwell, Director of Portfolio Propositions at Colt DCS, said: "Our portfolio has been designed in keeping with our vision to be the most customer-centric data centre operator. Customers will no longer need to pay a premium for buying colocation services within the same sites as the major cloud services providers."



"The extension of the customer referral programme to the US is a result of the increased demand we have seen from our customers for global services. Similarly, there is huge potential to roll-out our best-in-class capabilities in the US, as partners look to us to help them broaden their market opportunities in Europe and Asia.

"The extension of the customer referral programme, the recent expansion of our data centres and our private connectivity solutions demonstrate our ongoing commitment to delivering a world-class service."

Private equity giants launch century link's former \$2.6bn data centre operations as standalone business

New operations unit also includes the assets from a \$200m M&A of Medina Capital's security and data analytics portfolio.

BC Partners and Medina Capital have officially closed the acquisitions of CenturyLink's portfolio of data centres and associated colocation business and of Medina Capital's security and data analytics portfolio.

With more than 2.6 million sqf of colocation space and nearly 195 MW of power, CenturyLink's portfolio of 57 properties was one of the largest to come to market in recent years.

The new data centre business has been branded as Cyxtera Technologies and results from the \$2.6bn acquisition of CenturyLink's assets announced in November 2016 and a \$200m acquisition of Medina Capital's security and data analytics portfolio, including Cryptzone, Catbird, Easy Solutions, and Brainspace.

Cyxtera, which operations started officially today, serves more than 3,500 customers around the world.

CenturyLink is to continue to offer colocation services as part of its hybrid IT offerings through its commercial relationships with Cyxtera, similar to Verizon's agreement with Equinix.

Manuel D. Medina, founder and managing partner of Medina Capital, and founder and former CEO of Terremark Worldwide, has been named CEO of Cyxtera.

He is joined by his team from Medina Capital, including members of the former senior leadership team of Terremark, a provider of data centre, cybersecurity and infrastructure services that was acquired by Verizon in 2011 in a \$2bn transaction.

Cyxtera's executive team will also include members from the five acquired businesses and a roster of veterans from the enterprise infrastructure and cybersecurity sectors.

The company is to have 1,100 staff across the globe, of which 700 have transitioned from CenturyLink.

Medina said: "The last two decades have brought seismic changes to enterprise IT availability, agility and scalability, and the next era must be underpinned by a similar revolution in infrastructure security.

"I am proud and excited to be working with an all-star team of seasoned professionals with proven success in the fields of IT infrastructure and cybersecurity as we launch a new global platform to help realize this vision, to help our customers operate and secure their critical applications and business systems. I'm delighted to welcome our team, our customers and our partners to Cyxtera."

Justin Bateman, managing partner for BC Partners, said: "As the complexity of the IT environment grows and threats to its security continue to multiply, it is more important than ever before that institutions – both in the public and private sectors – integrate security into their core infrastructure strategy.

"Cyxtera is the first company to provide that integrated solution to customers around the world."

Glen F. Post III, chief executive officer and president of CenturyLink, said: "This sale allows CenturyLink to drive greater focus on our network infrastructure while still having the ability to sell colocation services in these data centres."



Nearly 9 in 10 organisations not “very confident” in ability to protect their data centre

Unplanned downtime costs soar 36% in one year, yet, enterprises are still struggling to build a safe digital environment able to keep up with user expectations.

Despite repeated headlines of outages and their heavy economic impact to any business, nearly all organisations are still not entirely confident in their strategies to protect foundational structure within their data centre.

That is according to backup and disaster recovery firm Veeam Software and its more recent Availability Report, which has found that only 15% of decision makers are ‘very confident’ in their current solution’s ability to reliably backup and recover virtual machines within their SLAs.

Richard Agnew, VP NW EMEA at Veeam Software, told Data Economy: “That is an appallingly low percentage of real confidence. Any organisation that is not “very confident” in its ability to protect the foundational structure of its modern data centre, and provide total data and applications availability, should be re-examining the strategy and technologies it depends on.

“Availability challenges can have a big impact on employee confidence, which often results in diverting resources away from long-term or business-critical projects, so it is vital that businesses get their house in order when it comes to the availability of their data and applications.”

The report, which has surveyed more than 1,000 senior IT leaders from 24 countries, has also found that on top of ‘confidence’ not being as high as would be expected in today’s digital economy, unplanned downtime costs have gone up costing enterprises an average of \$21.8m each per year, up 36% since the company’s last report in 2016.

The costly figure comes as 82% of enterprises admit to suffering an ‘Availability Gap’, which corresponds to the gap between users demand for uninterrupted access to services and what businesses and IT can deliver.

Agnew said: “The findings of this report clearly demonstrate that businesses across the globe, are continuing to struggle with ensuring 24.7.365 access to their data and applications.

“The findings are consistent with past Veeam reports, clearly illustrating that organisations must reconsider their data availability, protection and recovery capabilities.

A company’s failure to better align these key requirements with the expectations of their business constituents will continue to put their organizations at risk and hinder innovation and digital transformation strategies.

“Perhaps the most surprising issue here is that businesses are not realising the need to improve their data.”





EMEA

Europe's major data centre colocation hubs hit nearly 1,000 MW

Q1 of 2017 ends strong with London, Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam set for more growth throughout the year.

Europe's major four colocation hubs of Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam and Paris have experienced a 27% growth in uptake in Q1 2017, when compared to the same period the year before.

An increasing demand for data centre power and an increase in activity by hyperscale giants and other cloud services providers was, according to CBRE, behind the high growth rate.

The combined four markets registered 26.6MW of take-up and 38MW of new supply in Q1 2017. London was responsible for 17.5MW of take-up, 60% of the European total, showing no real impact from Brexit.

The market saw significant further activity by the hyperscale cloud players, which resulted in London's second-largest quarterly total on record. In contrast, researchers highlighted that Amsterdam

(3.5MW), Frankfurt (3.2MW) and Paris (2.3MW) were relatively quiet in the first quarter.

Researchers have predicted that an expected increase in activity from corporate and enterprise occupiers as the year goes on will provide a more balance to take-up.

Andrew Jay, Executive Director, Data Centre Solutions, at CBRE said: "We predicted a strong 2017 in the European markets and Q1 has certainly delivered for us. Given the momentum built up in 2016 we were not surprised to see a strong start to the year.

"The key question is whether 2017 will surpass last year's record breaking 155MW. Our view is that we will have another really strong year of at least 100MW which is astonishing considering that the record take-up prior to 2016 was 78MW.

"Q1 came very close to reaching a milestone of 1000MW of supply across the four markets; ending the quarter on 996MW. We expect a substantial amount of further new supply to come on during the course of the year, including new entrants in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and London."



'Major surge in cloud based services' creates unprecedented growth in network traffic at Europe's largest data centre campus

Need for speed in cloud age sees point to point connectivity boosted as enterprise cloud customers flood in.

Newport-based Next Generation Data (NGD) has switched on services on the the new BT Wholesale Optical and Optical Connect National service which delivers 10Gb, nx10Gb and 100Gb Ethernet symmetric point to point connectivity.

The Welsh data centre operator, which services customers from a 750,000 sqf campus, said it has become one of the first data centres outside London to go live with the service.

The decision to enter the BT Wholesale Optical and Optical Connect National service came after what NGD labelled as "a major surge in cloud based services at NGD which in turn is creating an unprecedented growth in network traffic".

The company said in a statement: "With a direct connection to NGD's data centre BT's high performance optical solutions will support demand by offering customers a flexible, scalable and resilient solution including secure, uncontented bandwidth with zero jitter and packet loss."

Nick Razy, CEO, Next Generation Data, said: "Our data centre is relied on by a rapidly increasing number of enterprise cloud users and service providers which makes the availability of high speed, highly resilient and secure network services a top priority.

"NGD is delighted to be one of the first data centres offering BT's optical network services and is in line with our commitment to providing customers the maximum choice of low latency fibre connectivity solutions." NGD's operations with BT date back to 2014, when the data centre provider was selected as BT's first data centre PoP as part of its 21CN Next Generation Ethernet Infrastructure.

The data centre company's growth has been documented in recent months with recent announcements around a major US international bank signing a ten-year contract and the appointment of Bill McHenry as non-executive director to help drive business amongst existing and prospective customers.

In a recent interview with Data Economy, CEO Razy highlighted the company's future roadmap, which will see the Newport's site expand. Razy was also critical of negativism around Brexit, saying that the vote for the UK to leave the European Union has not had an impact in his business.



Migsolv's Janet network take allows SME customers to seal the deal in the public sector

Service also allows those sitting in the provider's data centre to offer colocation services with a Janet connection under their own brands.

UK data centre operator Migsolv has started to offer connectivity to the Janet network which will allow small and medium enterprise (SME) customers to carry out their own deals in the public sector.

The Janet network has been in use for more than 30 years and was primarily targeted at academic and research institutions.

Today, the network is being used by several SMEs and public bodies to work with a wide range of previously inaccessible markets, including many organisations connected to private government networks.

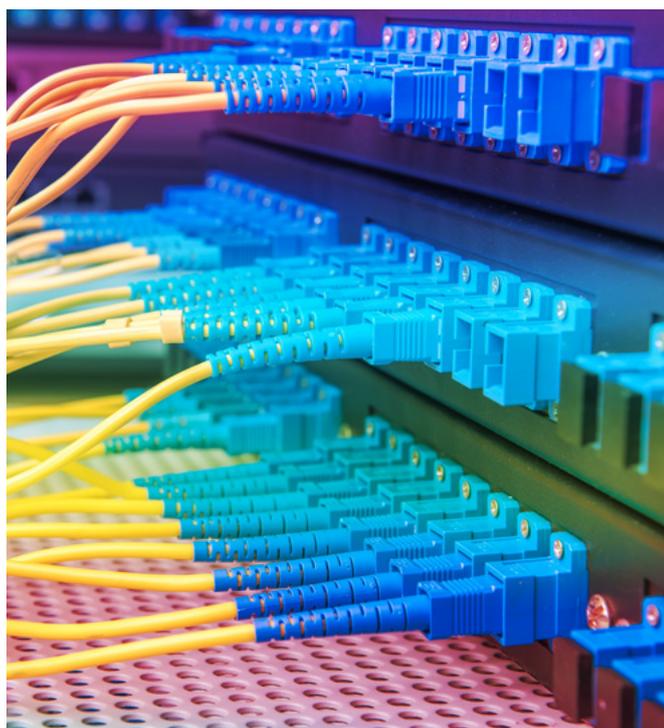
Migsolv has now become the second organisation ever to provide the service, second only to Goonhilly Earth Station, a radiocommunication site in Cornwall used for space and satellite works.

The Janet connection through Migsolv's Norwich site is delivered in partnership with high-performance network provider Next Connex.

The connection provides links into the Public Services Network (PSN), N3 NHS network and Police National Network.

David Manning, Managing Director of Migsolv, said: "We are thrilled to be only the second UK commercial facility to offer a Janet connection. It's a prestigious, ultra-fast network – and a great fit with our data centre, which is one of the most secure in the world.

"Our Janet link opens up a vast new marketplace for companies and public bodies alike which choose to use our data centre services."



Pulsant answers Brexit critics with £20m London data centre investment



Company is the latest to invest in the British capital in another proof that Brexit means business as usual for the data centre.

Pulsant has invested £20m in a new data centre hall in the south of the British capital as the industry marches on and refuses to succumb to Brexit critics.

The hybrid cloud services provider's newest hall – Hall 7 – has increased capacity at the company's Tier 3, 301,390 sqf data centre by 4,305 sqf.

The added space at the SL data centre has a rack capacity of 200 and has been opened earlier this week.

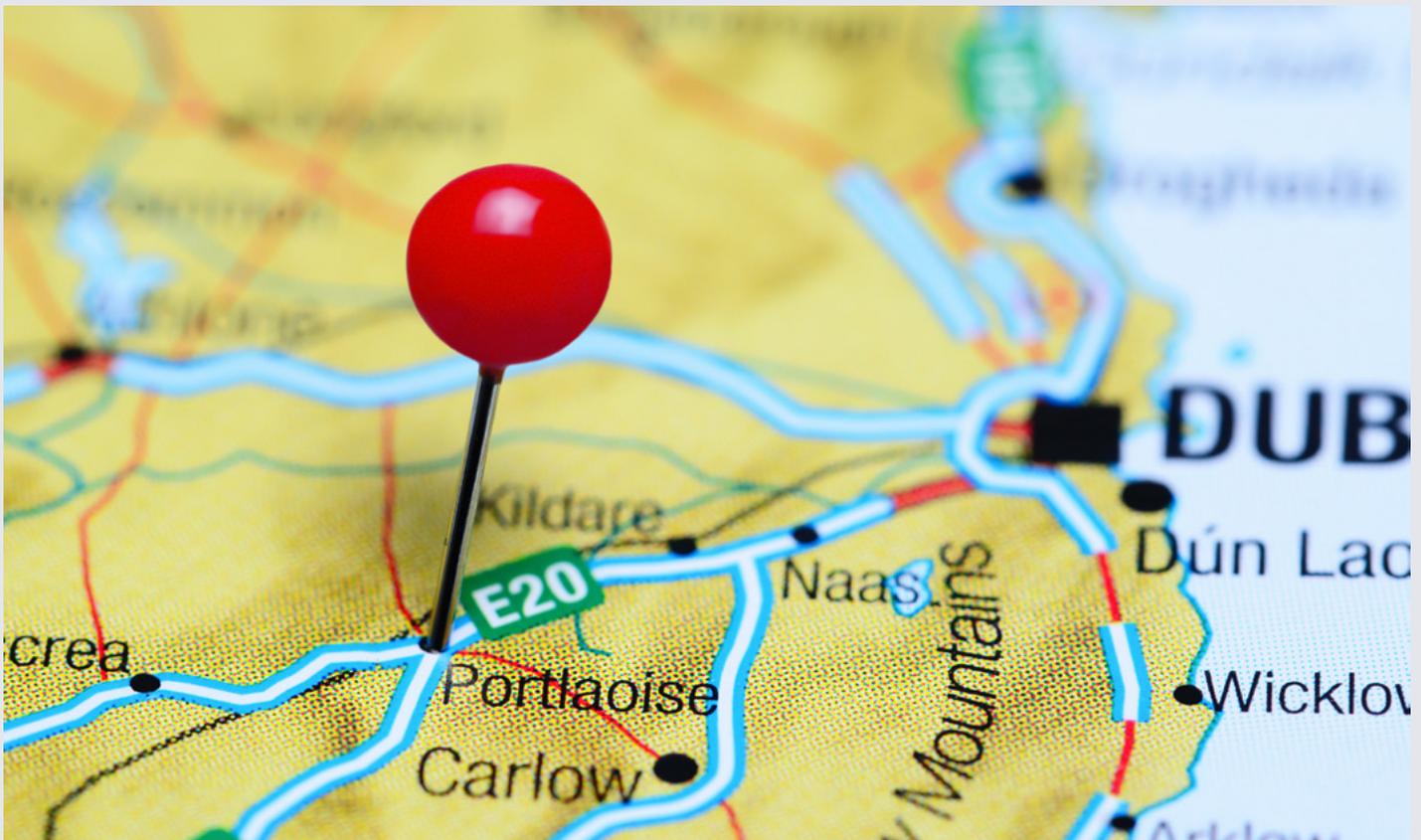
Matt Lovell, CTO, Pulsant, said: "The construction of Hall 7 is just the latest step in our plan to expand the capacity and services delivered from our South London datacentre site to include eight purpose-built data halls, bringing the total area to 3,300 m2.

"As it stands, the new hall expands our capabilities in this attractive location just outside the City and has met our customers' demand for more space in a highly secure, connected and resilient facility."

The South London data centre is one of Pulsant's 14 owned facilities. Pulsant's investment in its UK portfolio is just the most recent example of how the data centre industry is blooming in the Brexit age.

Other operators to have recently conducted expansions and bulked up services include Wales-based Next Generation Data, London-based Virtus Data Centres and a \$2bn acquisition of an Infinity data centre by Zenium Data Centers.

In a recent interview with Data Economy, techUK's associate director Emma Fryer and head of cloud, data, analytics and AI Sue Daley said the UK's technology sector and especially the data centre space has much to look forward to as the country negotiates its exit with the EU expected to happen in 2019 or 2020.



Ireland on verge of landing 1,450 acres data centre park

Large wetland estate is only one of several locations currently on the table to expand Ireland's data centre construction industry.

Ireland's heavy data centre industry is readying for the setup of what it could be one of the largest data centre projects to date in the country.

This is after one of the island's largest companies, Bord na Móna, has unveiled plans to potentially develop a 1,450-acre piece of land into a giant investment magnet for data centre operators.

The estate is located in Cúl na Mona, next to Portlaoise, a South Midlands town of just over 20,000 inhabitants.

The land is currently a wetland, however, Bord na Móna said it is ready to offer support to those interested in investment in the region and has created two separate lots of 97 (Cúl na Mona 2) and 37 (Cúl na Mona 1) acres for a first stage of development, according to a local politician. The remaining area is set to continue to be harvested by Bord na Mona in the next decade.

The data centre park has gathered support from local politicians, including Irish republican party Sinn Féin's deputy Brian Stanley, who has already met with Bord na Móna's CEO Mike Quinn to discuss the development and its potential around jobs creation.

Stanley said: "This is great news for the entire county which has been badly hit by unemployment in recent years.

"The Cúl na Mona site meets their [data centre operators] evaluation criteria – close proximity to high voltage power; proximity to dark fibre connectivity; direct access to motorway network; land banks of sufficient scale and proximity to urban environments and associated talent pools."

The politician also said Bord na Móna has managed to get IDA to help market the development. Stanley said: "These are

ambitious plans and I urge the IDA to market them vigorously to progress the project as quickly as possible." Bord na Móna was not immediately available for comment, however, it has put out a company statement.

In the statement it reads: "Bord na Móna manage 200,000 acres of Peatlands on behalf of the state. We have carried out an extensive review of our landbank in recent times as significant portions of that land become cutaway (where peat has been extracted).

"We are continually looking at innovative ways to best utilise that landbank for the benefit of the state. We have highlighted a number of potential sites for the possible development of Data Centres and are in the very early stages of working with the IDA in order to progress them. Cúl na Mona is one of these potential sites".

Although the project is still in the early stages of development, such project could put even more pressure on Ireland's power grid.

The addition of data centres by web scalers such as Apple, AWS, Microsoft and Google has brought with the facilities a surge in electricity demand. According to Tanya Duncan, MD of Interxion Ireland, such as to be addressed with more state investment.

She told Data Economy: "There is a huge demand because in Ireland we have this different position where we have these hyperscale data centres and then we have the ones like ourselves, where we have colo, retail, wholesale, and you have that real mix in Ireland.

"In one sense, we are very happy for the likes of Microsoft, Amazon, Google, they are all here, which is great. They give us a name, a reputation and people see them here and they come to Ireland, so that is great, but on the other side, they take a lot of the infrastructure in terms of power and whatever else and so we have to be very aware of what is happening with power and the uptake of power and that we are on the agenda as well."

Microsoft to build cloud data centres in Africa

Web scaler's footprint to grow to 40 cloud regions worldwide, with the company operating data centres in every continent.

Microsoft has become the first major web scaler to announce the construction of data centres in Africa in an historical move for the continent.

The company said it will begin to deliver its cloud solutions by 2018 from two data centres located in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

Part of the services to be offered from the hubs are Microsoft Azure, Office 365, and Dynamics 365.

Microsoft highlighted the data centres will not only benefit South African enterprises, but also users across the continent with the option of data residency in South Africa.

Scott Guthrie, executive vice president, Cloud and Enterprise Group, Microsoft, said: "We are excited by the growing demand for cloud services in Africa and their ability to be a catalyst for new economic opportunities.

"With cloud services ranging from intelligent collaboration to predictive analytics, the Microsoft Cloud delivered from Africa will enable developers to build new and innovative apps, customers to transform their businesses, and governments to better serve the needs of their citizens."

With the introduction of these new cloud regions, Microsoft has now announced 40 regions around the world.



IDC's senior research manager for MEA Jon Tullett, said that by establishing hyperscale cloud data centre capacity in South Africa, Microsoft is directly addressing customers' concerns, and demonstrating commitment to the delivery of cloud services within the country and the region as a whole.

"The presence of local facilities will be greatly encouraging to South African customers, particularly those in regulated industries such as financial services and the public sector where data sovereignty concerns are paramount," he said.

"This is a strongly positive development for the cloud industry in Africa, and particularly Microsoft's ecosystem of partners, ISVs and customers."

In addition to the South African data centres, Microsoft is also readying the launch of facilities in Arizona (US), Texas (US) and two data centres in France.

Equinix lands three large contracts in less than 24h

Three's investment part of a larger €365m IT and network makeover which the company hopes will strengthen services.

Irish mobile data operator Three has selected Equinix to service the operator's data centre needs.

The five-year contract comes as Three is undergoing a €365m IT and network investment.

Three said it will "invest significantly" in new data centre and interconnection services and infrastructure in Equinix's DB4 data centre in Northwest Business Park, Dublin.

The data centre has a total power of 12 MVA and a square footage of 130,000 sqf, of which 51,322 sqf are for colocation. DB4 is linked to Equinix's other IBX Dublin hubs namely DB1, DB2 and DB3.

The mobile operator is already deploying at DB4 and believes that by further investing in the infrastructure it will better serve its two million customers.

Under the contract with Equinix, Three's business customers can also keep their IT systems with co-location services available at the data centre. Three will house its own billing, IVR and customer care systems on-site.

David Hennessy, CTO at Three, said: "We are continuing to roll out our €365 million network and IT system upgrade which will deliver more coverage, better speeds and a cutting edge customer experience.

"Since the acquisition of O2 in 2014, we have needed to transform our data centre infrastructure. As the mobile operator that carries the most mobile data, we have to ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure in place to support our customers' usage.

"This new data centre investment strengthens our overall service and ensures that Three continues to be a leading, innovative and cost effective telecommunications provider both now and into the future."

Maurice Mortell, Equinix's Managing Director for Ireland and Emerging Markets, said: "As applications become more complex and the volume of data traffic rises worldwide, network service providers are increasingly simplifying their network topologies for improved speed and flexibility, without compromising security."

Three's investment in Equinix services comes less than 24h since Equinix announced a large contract with Discovery Communications which is to deploy 80% of its IT in Equinix data centres in North America and Europe.



Colt opens PoP at Interxion's Marseille data centre in bid to penetrate Africa, Asia and Middle East

Regional base will connect not only to markets across the Mediterranean but also to key European digital hubs in London, Frankfurt and Paris.

Colt Technology Services has doubled its data centre footprint in Marseille, France, after establishing a second point-of-presence (PoP) at Interxion's local data centre.

The PoP has been opened at the MRS1 facility as the company aims at emerging markets in Africa, Middle East and Asia.

The connectivity boosting out of Marseille into Europe, connects to major financial and commercial hubs such as Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam and Paris which Colt admitted to pose a "a significant opportunity" for the company.

Colt has connected MRS1 to its IQ Network using the existing Colt-owned metro fibre network.

The provider's network provides users with access to 90 top European data centres in the first phase of deployment.

In addition, customers will also have access to the Colt IQ Network, giving access to over 700 data centres and more than 24,500 buildings worldwide, as well as the long distance network (LDN) connecting Europe to hubs in Asia, including Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

With IP traffic in the Middle East and Africa set to grow six-fold from 2015 to 2020 to 10.9 Exabytes per month, and IP traffic in Asia Pacific set to grow three-fold to 67.8 Exabytes per month over the same period, "Colt is directly addressing customer demand for both point-to-point and geographically diverse high bandwidth transit between Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia Pacific," the company said.

The Marseille data centre sits in a hot cable landing region, which has seen the recent addition of two more cables in recent months, including Sea-Me-We-5 and AAE1.

Tim Passingham, Vice President, Wholesale at Colt, said: "Our second Marseille PoP delivers on our customers' diverse and growing need for connectivity to an unparalleled selection of connected data centres and buildings.

"Marseille is an important landing station for a large number of key subsea cables, making it a gateway to and from Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific. With the recent landing of two new cables in the Marseille facility and the strong projected growth for internet traffic in the African, Middle East and Asian regions, Marseille will be an increasingly important strategic hub for our wholesale customers."



AMERICAS

Equinix lands massive data centre contract with Discovery Communications

Famous organisation colocates at Equinix's data centres in Ashburn, London and Paris in one of the heaviest IT infrastructure shake ups of its history.

Data centre services provider Equinix has been selected by multi-billion Dollar communications company Discovery Communications to help implement an Interconnection Oriented Architecture (IOA).

Discovery Communications, founded with The Discovery Channel in 1985, is now looking towards building a fully cloud-based, distributed model while undertaking its digital transformation strategy.

The company has collocated at Equinix's data centres in Ashburn, London and Paris, and will consolidate 80% of its IT infrastructure, optimise delivery of worldwide content, and accelerate real-time product delivery via fast connections.

Discovery is also set to gain access to Equinix's Media Cloud Ecosystem for Entertainment (EMCEE) which supplies a gateway to media services in the public cloud.

Matt George, senior manager at Equinix, told Data Economy: "With more than 3 billion viewers and 54 billion hours of content being watched worldwide, Discovery needed to transform its digital production and distribution value chains to optimise the company's global content creation, management and delivery.

"Discovery wanted to focus on its core business, creating more compelling content and harness digital transformation to change the way the company creates and distributes content."

George continued to say that in this connected era, industry leaders are constantly rethinking about their content from creation to distribution in order to drive innovation and manage a global digital supply chain for an on-demand, multi-screen customer base.

"The Media and Entertainment Ecosystem is a platform that enables the direct integration of film and video production workflows among M&E partners and 2,500+ cloud & IT providers hosted within 150 global Equinix IBX data centres," he said.

"Low latency is also mandatory for the optimal viewing experience. Plus, secure delivery to specific, authenticated devices is paramount. All this makes superior interconnection absolutely essential."

David Duvall, Senior Vice President of Infrastructure & Support Services, Discovery Communications, said: "The cloud is the future for digital media and entertainment – the agility and cost advantages are immense.

"Once we started our digital journey, it was quickly apparent that we needed a neutral interconnect partner who would enable us to connect our entire ecosystem physically and virtually, allowing us to scale up or down to address current and future requirements.



CyrusOne planning massive 66-acre data centre campus in Texas



Concrete walls of up to 20 feet high are to protect three large data centre buildings projected for an agricultural open space in North Texas.

CyrusOne has filled plans with the City of Allen Planning and Zoning Commission to build what could become one of the largest data centre campuses in Texas on the outskirts of Dallas.

According to the filed plans, the data centre campus is proposed to sit on a site measuring 65,578 acres located north of Allen Commerce Parkway and east of Chelsea Boulevard.

In the documents it reads: "The applicant is proposing to construct a data centre on the approximately 65.578 acre site which is currently zoned Agriculture Open Space AO. The data centre will store, manage, and process data and information.

"Due to the individuality of the applicant's use, a Planned Development has been prepared to outline the uses and design for the property. The applicant is proposing to adopt a Concept Plan, Building Elevations, and Development Regulations for the property.

"The Concept Plan shows three separate data centre buildings to be constructed in three phases. The building on Phase I will be 350,950 square feet; the building on Phase II will be 619,100 sqf."

The data centre buildings have been designed with two floors and will have a maximum height of 56 feet. The assets will be protected by concrete walls measuring between eight and 20 feet.

The Allen Planning and Zoning Commission is now expected to vote on the planning proposal today. If approved, CyrusOne's Allen data centre will join a growing data centre hub which already counts with an operational Cisco data centre.

In addition, TierPoint LLC and Compass Data Centers are also working on a 90,000 sqf data centre. CyrusOne operates today 35 data centres across the US, Singapore and the UK.

In Texas alone, the company runs ten facilities in Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and Houston. Texas has in recent months witnessed the opening of several large data centre facilities including RagingWire's 230,000 sqf hub and Stream Data Centers' 265,000 sqf building.

PUE monitoring still a challenge to many data centre operators

With four levels of PUE reporting in use today, operators are still failing pressure to reduce the energy consumption of their data centres.

Power usage effectiveness (PUE) has become a war tool between data centre operators that fight for the lowest possible PUE.

Yet, many are still failing to continuously monitor their PUE and therefore risk higher operational costs and energy waste, according to a Schneider Electric whitepaper.

In the paper, entitled "Continuous Metering and Monitoring of PUE in Data Centers", Wendy Torell, senior research analyst at Schneider Electric's Data Center Science Center, said: "Data centre owners continue to be under pressure to reduce the energy consumption of their data centres.

"While average PUE numbers have come down for an industry as a whole, there are still many data centres that have not taken the first step of continuous metering. Proper metering and monitoring will provide you with the ability to calculate PUE for real-time operational control, site benchmarking, and site compliance (internal or external).

"It is very difficult to improve what you do not measure, in a systematic way."

Torell goes on to explain that metering the IT load can usually be done with today's metering technology, either from the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), PDU, or rack PDUs.

However, the analyst highlights that metered rack PDUs provide the most accurate representation of IT load, as it eliminates losses between the UPS and the load.

She said: "Measuring the total data centre load can be simple if the data centre is the only function in the building; or it can involve aggregating, calculating, and estimating when the data centre is in a shared facility with shared systems.

"When budgets allow, cooling systems should be metered, as these represent the systems with most opportunity for PUE improvement. Less visibility to individual subsystems means less ability to continuously improve and/or measure the effectiveness of changes."

In the whitepaper, Schneider Electric also discusses the four levels of PUE reporting as set down by the Green Grid.

Level 0 does not cover continuous monitoring at all; Level 1 requires only monthly measurements and is intended for situations in which only the IT equipment in a data centre is powered via the UPS.

Level 2 requires daily measurements and takes a more granular approach to measuring power consumed by the IT equipment by measuring at the PDU output.

Lastly, Level 3 reports IT load most accurately, as the meters are at the IT rack level.

Aligned energy cuts ribbon on 62MW data centre

First phase of the project uses only half of the capacity at a large Arizona site powered exclusively by renewable energy sources.

Operator Aligned Energy has opened its latest data centre property in Phoenix, Arizona, to stimulate “a more innovation-driven economy”.

The 550,000 sqf, 62MW data centre sits in a piece-of land comprising 51 acres. The site has a total expandable power capacity of up to 120MW.

The building is powered recurring to renewable energy sources and has been designed to use up to 85% less water and up to 80% less energy for cooling, resulting in a power usage effectiveness (PUE) of 1.15.

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, said: “As Phoenix continues to build a more innovation-driven economy we will need newer and better technology infrastructure.

“Aligned Energy’s state-of-the-art and environmentally efficient data centre is a welcome addition that will help Phoenix foster tech-industry growth while reducing the environmental impacts of our businesses.”

Jakob Carnemark, Founder and CEO of Aligned Energy, said: “We could not be more excited to open our newest adaptive data centre in Phoenix, one of the top markets in the U.S. for multi-tenant data centres.



“The kind of growth projected for the digital economy is simply unsustainable without dramatic improvements in data centre efficiency.

“We believe providing truly reliable, critical infrastructure is no longer enough. Our mission is to make critical infrastructure smart enough to continuously improve its economic performance and environmental impact, delivering a tremendous business advantage for our customers.”

The Arizona data centre has taken Aligned Energy total footprint to 602,500 sqf of hosting space as the company runs a second data centre in Texas.

The site in Plano has a total area of 19 acres and a power drive of 30MW. Once fully built, the data centre will measure 300,000 sqf.

In the coming years, Aligned Energy has the potential to grow its data centre fleet to nearly 1.5 million sqf once both the Texas and Arizona sites are fully built.

Verizon officially kills cloud business 6 years after \$1.4bn terremark acquisition

Pressure from AWS, Microsoft, Google and others continues to make victims, especially in the telecommunications business space.

Days after officially stepping out of the data centre arena, Verizon has now also reached an end to its cloud business which is to be bought by IBM.

The company entered the cloud infrastructure space in 2011 after buying Terremark for \$1.4bn and officially launched the product in 2013.

However, in 2014, the telecommunications provider unveiled plans to exit from the cloud business and in April 2016 shut down the service.

Now, Verizon and IBM have come to an agreement to sell Verizon’s cloud footprint to IBM.

George Fischer, SVP and Group President, Verizon Enterprise Solutions, said: “Last week, Verizon agreed to sell its cloud and managed hosting service to IBM. Additionally, Verizon agreed

to work with IBM on a number of strategic initiatives involving networking and cloud services.

“This is a unique cooperation between two tech leaders to support global organizations as they look to fully realise the benefits of their cloud computing investments.”

Fischer went on to say that the agreement, which is expected to close later in 2017, presents “a great opportunity for Verizon Enterprise Solutions (VES) and IBM customers”.

He said: “It is the latest development in an ongoing IT strategy aimed at allowing us to focus on helping our customers securely and reliably connect to their cloud resources and utilise cloud-enabled applications.

“Our goal is to become one of the world’s leading managed services providers enabled by an ecosystem of best-in-class technology solutions from Verizon and a network of other leading providers.”

According to the latest data from Synergy Research, IBM is one of the world’s top five cloud infrastructure providers.



Facebook opens \$1bn Texas data centre campus



Web scaler has filled for further expansion at the site, as construction of other hubs in the US and Denmark continue.

Social media giant Facebook has officially opened another multi-million Dollar data centre campus, this time in Fort Worth, North Texas.

The campus sits on a piece-of-land of 150 acres and has been launched with two data centre buildings having a combined floor space of 950,000 sqf.

Tom Furlong, vice president of infrastructure at Facebook, said: "Facebook apps and services are now coming to you every day from this facility.

"If you are local, there is a high probability you are using this site. All of your profile information is stored here. Our data centres form the foundation of how we connect billions of people.

"The Fort Worth data centre is a cornerstone in our global infrastructure. We have in this facility our latest hardware – our most hyper-efficient designs."

Works at the site were initiated in 2015 for the first data centre, with a second building breaking ground soon after due to rapid growth surrounding Facebook's online platforms.

However, despite having just been put to use, the two data centres are soon to get another 440,000 sqf, \$267m companion, according to the Dallas Business Journal.

Facebook is also planning a fourth and fifth data centre for the campus which has a combined total investment of \$1bn.

Facebook's Texas data centres add to a global footprint of five sites spread across the US, Ireland and Sweden.

However, the company has plans to add four more facilities which are already under construction in Denmark and the US.

CyrusOne tops \$4.2bn in assets value, puts on nearly 1 million sqf of data centre space in 12 months

And has more than 600,000 sqf already under construction across several sites in North America as capital expenditure is boosted by the millions of Dollars.

CyrusOne's data centre portfolio has added 869,000 sqf of colocation space in the period between March 31, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

According to the company's Q1 2017 financial results, CyrusOne operates now 2,477,000 sqf of colocation space, with 236,000 sqf added in the first quarter of 2017 alone.

In that same quarter, the operator added 45MW of power capacity with acquisitions and expansion in San Antonio, Northern Virginia and Chicago taking the company's number of properties to 35 in the US, the UK and Singapore.

Square footage utilisation as of the end of Q1 2017 was 92% for stabilised properties and 88% overall.

In addition, CyrusOne has development projects underway in Northern Virginia, Phoenix, Dallas, Chicago, San Antonio and Cincinnati that are expected to add approximately 604,000 of colocation sqf and 94 MW of power capacity.

Once the projects are concluded, CyrusOne will count with one of the largest data centre colocation portfolios in the US and globally at 3,081,000 sqf.

Combined, all the company's assets at the end of Q1 2017 had a gross value of \$4.2bn, an increase of nearly 41% compared to Q1 2016.

However, CyrusOne is also readying the launch of a large development which will see the provider build three data centres in North Texas, potentially adding another one million≈sqf of colocation space once fully built.

In its financial results, CyrusOne has also revised its capital expenditure for 2017, increasing its original forecast of \$550-\$600m to \$600-\$650m of which \$595-\$640m will be used for development.

Overall, for q1 2017, the company reported revenues of \$149.3m, a 27% on Q1 2016 driven by the lease of 18MW and 148,000 sqf of colocation space.

Gary Wojtaszek, president and chief executive officer of CyrusOne, said: "We had one of the strongest bookings quarters in the company's history and signed a record number of leases, reflecting broad demand for our product offering from both cloud and enterprise customers.

"Our revised guidance highlights the continued strength of our business, and we maintain a robust sales funnel supported by a development pipeline to meet demand across our markets. We also strengthened our balance sheet and debt maturity profile through the successful \$800m notes offering."

Zayo data centre fleet tops 42 sites



Company keeps up with its monthly acquisition stream as it snaps up two more data centres in California.

Communications infrastructure provider Zayo Group Holdings has invested \$12m in the acquisition of two Southern Californian data centres from KIO Networks.

The facilities based in San Diego include 100,000 sqf of space and 2MW of power, with availability for expansion.

Zayo said the acquisition of fostered by accelerated demand for data centre and interconnection services in San Diego, fuelled by customers in IT, healthcare and professional services.

The company said the San Diego facilities will provide interconnection and access to Zayo's fiber backbone in California, which now encompasses more than 8,000 route miles.

Zayo's fiber portfolio also connects to multiple landing stations providing subsea cable access up the California coast and to the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

T.J. Karklins, senior vice president of Zayo's zColo business segment, said: "California is an important hub of the global economy, and this acquisition further strengthens Zayo's position as a leading infrastructure provider.

"We now have zColo data centers in all of California's leading metros, creating a strong chain up the West Coast which extends to Seattle. Customers increasingly require solutions that require network connectivity, colocation and cloud infrastructure." The San Diego acquisition follows on from others carried out by the company in recent months.

One of the company's largest was the \$1.42bn acquisition of Phoenix-based infrastructure and telecom services provider Electric Lightwave back in March.

The investment gave Zayo an extra 8,100 miles of fiber which provides connectivity to more than 100 data centres on long haul fiber across 35 markets in the US.

Elsewhere, Zayo announced data centres in Santa Clara and Los Angeles in further multi-million Dollar investments.

Zayo has today 42 data centres across North America and Europe.

Facebook expands its largest data centre campus in the world

While the world looks at Facebook's mega Iowa campus, in North Carolina the company's data centre has been caught up in a racial harassment lawsuit.

Less than five days after opening its \$1bn Texan data centre, Facebook has now broken ground on the expansion of its 400-acre campus in Iowa.

The site, Facebook's most extensive to date, is located in the city of Altoona, which has a population of just over 46,200.

In the campus, the social media giant already runs a data centre footprint of 1.5 million sqf, however, the web scaler is to add an extra one million sqf of data centre floor with the expansion now under construction.

The building will be the fourth operated by Facebook in Altoona, according to Facebook's Brice Towns, site manager for the Altoona data centre.

He said: "We expect this expansion to keep the hundreds of workers on our construction crews busy until 2020, and at one point, we project 800 construction workers will be on site daily.

"Additionally, this expansion will add additional full-time employees to the more than 200 we already have on site."

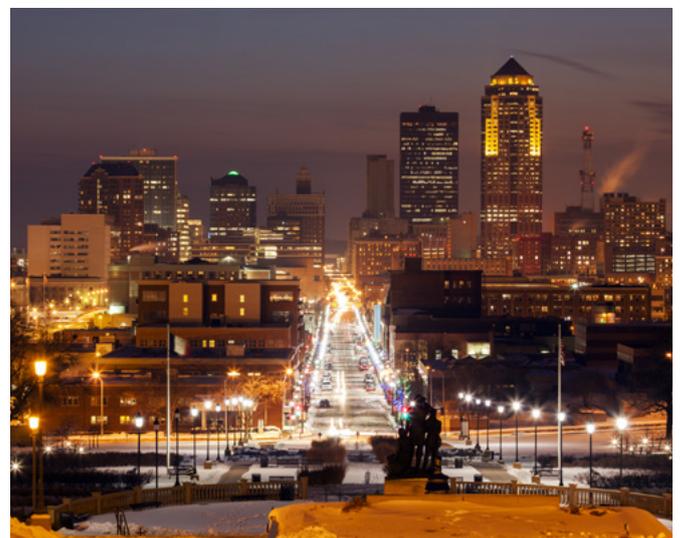
The data centre campus was originally announced in 2013 and has since then grown to account to three builds, with one still under construction.

The site requires 138MW of power, outsourced from renewable energy sources such as wind from the company's wind project and collaboration with MidAmerician Energy in Wellsburg, also in Iowa.

The same source will now be used to power the fourth building.

Towns said: "The City of Altoona continues to be a great partner to Facebook, and we're excited about the growth happening in the community — including new retail options, hotels, and restaurants, as well as our great school districts."

The company's data centre portfolio counts today with nine facilities, mostly in the US.



Apple invests \$2bn in the US including a massive data centre expansion

Tim Cook steps up Apple's role on delivering to President Donald Trump the America he promised.

Apple has in the last week announced investment plans in the US worth \$2bn, including a \$1bn expansion of its data centre in Reno, Nevada.

The data centre expansion was approved by the Reno City Council this Wednesday and is expected to add at least 100 jobs to the local economy.

The \$1bn investment will bring the capital expenditure on this specific campus to nearly \$2bn while almost tripling the workforce at the site in the Reno Technology Center.

John Rosenstock, Apple's spokesman said: "We are excited to be increasing our contributions to the local economy with an additional \$1bn investment to expand our data centre and supporting facilities.

"As part of our growth, we plan to hire 100 employees and expect construction will support an additional 300 jobs."

The campus was commissioned in 2012 after Apple benefited from \$89m om state property and sales tax abatements. Last



week, Apple's CEO Tim Cook had announced a \$1bn investment fund to promote advanced manufacturing jobs in the US.

The first investment is expected to be announced in later this month, Cook told CNBC's Mad Money host Jim Cramer.

Cook said: "By doing that, we can be the ripple in the pond. Because if we can create many manufacturing jobs around, those manufacturing jobs create more jobs around them because you have a service industry that builds up around them."

However, while \$2bn might sound like a lot for many, for Apple that is only 0.8% of its cash holdings which now stand at \$250bn.

Equinix Seals The Deal On Verizon's \$3.6bn Data Centre Acquisition

Company adds 600 new customers as data centre fleet tops 175 facilities spread across the world comprising 17 million sqf.

Equinix has closed the \$3.6bn acquisition of telecommunications company Verizon's data centres which places the operator as one of the largest data centre operator in the world.

With the acquisition, Equinix has added a total of 29 data centres in North and Latin America to its portfolio, which accounts now with 175 facilities across 44 markets and approximately 17 million gross sqf, of which three million sqf derived from the acquisition.

Verizon's assets have also transported into Equinix a customer base of over 1,000 customers, of which over 600 are net new.

According to the provider, Verizon, which was already a customer of Equinix, will "become a substantially larger customer".

In March, Equinix and Verizon announced an agreement whereby Verizon will exclusively re-sell Equinix colocation and interconnection services globally.

In addition, approximately 250 Verizon employees, primarily in the operations functions of the 29 acquired data centres, have become Equinix employees following the closing of the deal.

Steve Smith, CEO, Equinix, said: "As the technological shift to digital is transforming large sections of society and the global

economy, companies are re-architecting their IT infrastructure to thrive in this new environment.

"They are moving from traditional centralized infrastructure to a distributed model that keeps data closer to the customers, partners and employees using it.

"With this significant expansion of Equinix's globally consistent footprint, our platform is even more valuable to companies that are leveraging this new model of interconnection at the digital edge."

Equinix has last week reported a strong Q1 for 2017, with revenues increasing 12% compared to the same period the year before, topping \$950m. The company also reviewed its full year projections, expecting now to close the year with revenues of \$3,976m.

At the time the Verizon acquisition was announced, Keith D. Taylor, Equinix's CFO spoke to Data Economy, anticipating the deal would carry Equinix to revenues of \$6bn in the coming years.

He said: "Equinix can be a significant larger company than we are today. \$5bn [in revenues] was the first metric we put out there, we are adding \$450m for the first 12 months out of the gate for Verizon assets, and certainly there will be other things we will look to do over a relatively short period of time as we acquire more assets and scale our abilities to sell more products and services.

"With Verizon, we are certainly in the range of \$5bn to \$6bn in 2020."

DuPont Fabros buys 56-acre site, plans 1 million sqf data centre campus

Markets react well to expansion announcement as company's shares top one of their highest pricing in five years.

Wholesale data centre operator DuPont Fabros Technology (DFT) has acquired a piece-of-land measuring 56.5 acres in Mesa, Arizona.

The company said it now plans to develop a data centre campus with capacity for up to one million sqf of space.

The campus will add to DFT's 12 data centres in North American markets with a total square footage of 3.5 million and 302 megawatts of available critical load.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said: "DuPont Fabros Technology's selection of Arizona for a data centre site is another excellent example of how our state provides an unmatched platform supporting the world's leading companies.

"Arizona's pro-business environment and stable climate enable companies like DFT to provide their clients with data centre services affordably and reliably."

Mesa Mayor John Giles said: "With easy access to multiple freeways and airports, strategic infrastructure and a streamlined development process, Mesa is exactly what companies like DFT are looking for when locating their next facility.

"DFT had a choice when selecting a community and I am proud they chose Mesa and the Elliot Road Technology Corridor."

Following the investment announcement, DFT's stock was up closing trading at \$51.58, up 0.14%.

The stock value as off May 10 was one of the highest reached by the company since entering the NYSE. DFT's highest price share was registered on April 27 at \$52.41.

The company has a market capitalisation of \$4bn.

IO gets go ahead for three-story \$500m data centre

Renewable energy to power large campus expansion in one of the world's hottest data centre destinations.

IO has been given permission to expand its data centre campus in Phoenix, Arizona, in an investment tipped to reach \$500m.

According to the Phoenix Business Journal, the approval concerns a three-story building.

The Phoenix City Council has agreed to invest \$359,000 in infrastructure improvements on the site near Van Buren, before IO breaks ground on the expansion.

The expansion will see IO add more than 600 modules to its data centre campus in Phoenix, which currently includes ten data centre buildings in an investment that has topped \$200m over the year.

Rick Crutchley, COO of IO, said: "IO looks forward to working with the city of Phoenix and other relevant partners as we make considerable investments in our economy and in our community."

Google makes history with opening of Cuban data centre



Company is the first US technology company to establish services in the island in nearly 60 years.

Google has launched a data centre in Cuba, in what has become the island's first foreign internet company service deployment for over a decade.

The deal to establish a data centre presence in Cuba was originally signed in December 2016 by Google's executive chairman Eric Schmidt and Mayra Arevich, Cuba's national telecom provider president executive.

The hosting facility will be used to store data from several Google services, including YouTube and Gmail, easing Cubans' access to the giant's platform. However, only Cubans who already have internet access will be able to make use of the investment.

Prior to the establishment of the data centre, data consumed by Cuban citizens had to travel via a submarine cable from Venezuela.

The investment from Google is expected to curb Cuba's expensive internet rates, which were in December 2016 reduced to \$1.50 p/h from \$2.

However, in a country where the average salary is \$29 a month, internet rates are still considerably high.

Cuba has around 900 state-run internet cafes charging an average of \$4.50 and 240 WiFi spots servicing a population of more than 11 million.

The historical move by Google is also the first US data link into the island for more than a century since the two countries cut ties in 1961 during the Cold War.

Diplomatic relations were restored in July 2015, and since then, former President Barack Obama visited the island in March 2016, the first President to do so in 88 years.



ASIA PACIFIC

Digital Realty opens first data centre in Japan

Company's footprint extends now to more than 23 million sqf across 145 buildings in 33 global metropolitan areas.

Digital Realty has opened its first data centre in Japan, in the city of Osaka.

The Digital Osaka 1 data centre has 93,000 sqf of area and 7.6 MW of IT capacity.

The operator has also unveiled plans through the acquisition of a land parcel to build a second facility bringing total capacity in Osaka to 27MW.

Edward Higase, Managing Director, Asia Pacific for Digital Realty, said: "We are very excited to open our first data centre in Japan, expand our global network, and provide critical infrastructure for our customers with IT deployments in Osaka."

"Digital Osaka 1 was fully leased prior to the official opening, a reflection of the strong demand in the Japanese market for Digital Realty's comprehensive data centre solutions."

"The development of our Osaka connected campus will enable us to further expand our world-class data centre platform and support our customers' rapidly growing demand here and around the world."

Yoichi Fukuoka, Mayor of Ibaraki City, Osaka, said: "For our city planning and the continuous progress of Saito as a base for research and development, we consider this a very meaningful development."

"Through this opportunity, we hope that Digital Realty will expand its global data centre platform and further advance it worldwide."





Japan's largest internet exchange gets even larger at telehouse's Osaka data centre

New point-of-presence has been set up to answer growing demand around the need for connectivity in an economy that is digitising like no other.

JPIX, Japan's largest internet exchange, has expanded operations by entering Telehouse's Osaka 2 data centre and establishing a point-of-presence (PoP).

The Tier 4 data centre, operated by parent company KDDI, has started to provide Internet exchange (IX) services as a new JPIX Osaka Kyobashi site.

In a statement, the organisations said: "The partnership, which aims to meet the growing demand for IX and colocation services in Osaka, will give Telehouse Osaka 2 users access to KDDI's capability to support the high-power demand while offering high reliability

and connectivity to KDDI's network, and to JPIX's environment that supports large numbers of connections with low latency."

The JPIX is currently responsible for connections between more than 160 partner companies.

The Osaka 2 data centre sits in a 20 floors building in downtown Osaka and has been designed to withstand seismic intensity of 6-upper on the Japan Meteorological Agency seismic intensity scale.

The data centre has over 700 racks and a power input of 6.6MW.

The Osaka hub is the company's second 40MW, 1,300 racks data centre in Japan following one in Tokyo.

Globally, Telehouse operates 48 data centres, in 24 cities in 13 countries and regions, including Tokyo, Osaka, New York, London, Paris, and Hong Kong.



IBM sets blockchain aim at Singapore as cloud financial technology ignites

For IBM, the future is in cloud, cognitive computing and blockchain, which is being widely adopted by banking, healthcare and governments.

IBM and the National University of Singapore (NUS) School of Computing have entered a joint collaboration project to develop a teaching module on distributed ledger technologies.

The module, developed by IBM's research arm Center for Blockchain Innovation (ICBI) is being designed to better equip students with essential knowledge and skill sets in the topic.

The new module on financial technology is expected to be introduced in January 2018.

The module is to be co-taught by NUS academic staff and ICBI staff who will use financial technology software such as Hyperledger Fabric to deliver the course content.

Hyperledger is a Linux Foundation project and IBM will deliver the technology through IBM Cloud.

The partnership with the NUS came as the Singapore government's strategic goal to become a Smart Financial Centre1 put focus on blockchain for the city-state, IBM explained.

Through its Financial Sector Technology & Innovation (FSTI) scheme, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has committed \$157m over a five-year period to provide support for the creation of a fintech ecosystem.

Associate Professor Hahn Jungpil, Head of the Department of Information Systems at NUS School of Computing, said: "Our collaboration with ICBI marks yet another important milestone in our continuous efforts to bring industry relevant knowledge to our classrooms and at the same time inculcate technological responsibility in our students by spearheading the development of financial technology in Singapore, as the nation strives to become one of the world's key digital financial hubs.

"The new module forms part of the newly enhanced Information Systems degree programme in which a new specialisation in Financial Technology has been introduced. We are confident that our graduates will be well-prepared for the wide-ranging career opportunities in this fast-growing sector."

Robert Morris, Vice President Global Labs, IBM Research, said: "Blockchain is one of the most disruptive technologies in computing today, and it is impacting many industries including financial services, trade, healthcare and supply chain.

"This collaboration with the National University of Singapore School of Computing will help prepare a future workforce that is born on blockchain, ready to implement, improve and innovate: core skills required for Singapore to achieve its vision as a Smart Financial Centre and Smart Nation."

Alibaba to open Malaysia's first major public cloud data centre



Company gets government backing as local enterprises demand for more cloud infrastructure as business needs grow.

Alibaba has unveiled plans to open a data centre in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, growing the company's footprint to 15 data centres worldwide.

Citing Simon Hu, Alibaba's SVP and president of Alibaba Cloud, the New Strait Times reports that the facility is expected to open later in the year.

The data centre will be Malaysia's first global public cloud hub.

Alibaba currently has facilities operating in mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Australia, the Middle East, Europe and in the east and west coast of the US.

Hu said: "[The cloud data centre] will empower local entrepreneurs of various industries and scales to migrate their IT infrastructure to a powerful, reliable and secure platform.

"Alibaba Cloud is helping to realise the eWTP [Electronic World Trade Platform] vision by establishing cloud infrastructure to facilitate seamless cross-border online businesses for Malaysian enterprises.

"We look forward to laying the digital foundation for Malaysia in the new global economy, equipping the country with future-proof online marketplaces, as well as payment, logistics, cloud computing and big data services that work seamlessly in the ecosystem."

The Malaysian's data centre segment is expected to register in 2017 revenues of RM1bn, or \$224.1m, a new record for the country. As for the South-East Asian Region as a whole, the data centre space is today worth \$11bn.



Cybersecurity data centre targets China's new data sovereignty law

Those who fail to comply face operational suspension and criminal liability.

Customer identity management company Gigya has opened a data centre in Shanghai as Beijing's tightens data security laws.

The data centre is aimed at easing Chinese companies and international clients comply with the China National People's Congress revised law that 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.

The law was announced in November 2016 and is set to coming into force in June this year. According to the new legislation, penalties for non-compliance range from financial fines to operational suspension and criminal liability.

Gigya's Shanghai data centre is the company's fifth, following the opening of sites in the United States, Western Europe, Russia, and Australia.

Marisa Sires Wang, vice president of product at Gigya, said: "When it comes to data privacy and protection regulations, the world is quickly becoming a more challenging and confusing place to do business.

"As the leader in customer identity and access management (CIAM), we are dedicated to providing a platform that takes the burden of compliance off the shoulders of our clients, for whom we manage 1.3 billion customer identities. Our new China data centre is part of this continuing commitment to keep our clients ahead of the curve."



EVENTS

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

6th June 2017

Datacloud Awards
Monaco

12th – 13th June 2017

Gartner IT Infrastructure & Operations
Management Summit. Berlin, Germany

18th – 19th September 2017

Gartner Catalyst Conference
London, United Kingdom

19th October 2017

Datacloud Nordic
Oslo, Norway

7th – 8th November 2017

DatacentreDynamics Zettastructure
London, United Kingdom

15th – 16th November 2017

Data Centre World & Cloud Expo Europe
Paris, France



6th – 8th June 2017 Datacloud Europe, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco

Datacloud Europe is the premier networking and deal making event for data centre and cloud leaders, their customers and investors.

Over the past 13 years Datacentres Europe has evolved as a recognized beacon of high quality content offering thought leadership across Energy Cloud, Markets and Technologies, and has performed a critical role as an international networking and deal making opportunity for old and new contacts alike.

With a powerful agenda covering cloud challenges and data centre infrastructure it attracts investors, financiers, business leaders and their customers who use this annual meeting in the stunning backdrop of Monte Carlo to do deals that influence outcomes for the next 12 months and beyond.

28th – 29th November 2017

Data Centre World & Cloud Expo Europe
Frankfurt, Germany



AMERICAS

14th June 2017

DatacentreDynamics – Colombia
Bogotá, Colombia

26th – 27th September

DatacentreDynamics – Mexico
Mexico City, Mexico

Website in Spanish

18th October 2017

DatacentreDynamics – Peru
Lima, Peru

Website in Spanish

30th – 31st October 2017

DatacentreDynamics – Brazil
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Website in Portuguese

15th November 2017

DatacentreDynamics – Chile
Santiago, Chile

Website in Spanish



19th – 20th June 2017

DatacentreDynamics
Webscale, San Francisco

Welcome to DCD>Webscale, the international event for professionals involved in the design and delivery of hyperscale digital infrastructure that supports the zetta-byte economy.

DCD>Webscale 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. What is innovated, developed and perfected in the internet- and cloud-first universe will be soon be adapted to the other two classes: enterprise and multi-tenant lease, hosting, colocation managed services.

This digital infra universe is increasingly open-sourced, workload-centric, devops-tuned, software-defined, network-edged, hyper-converged, data-driven. And it's moving inexorably forward toward the true intelligent, autonomous, lights-out, commoditized data centre.

This conference is designed for senior executives and technical teams responsible for the design, build, manage and operate to deliver on the high-velocity business demands in the zettabyte era. With 40+ hours of thought-leading presentations, panels, keynotes, lightning rounds, solutions briefings, 'big discussions,' and lunch-and-learn sessions, DCD>Webscale packs a punch.



ASIA PACIFIC

15th June 2017

DatacentreDynamics Enterprise
China

27th June 2017

DatacentreDynamics Australia
Sydney, Australia

19th – 20th July 2017

DatacentreDynamics Webscale
Bangalore, India

9th November 2017

DatacentreDynamics Enterprise
Mumbai, India



20th – 21st September 2017

DatacentreDynamics
Zettastructure, Singapore

SDN, Hyper Converged, Open Architecture, NFV, Web Scale, Disaggregation. The data centre stack keeps increasing in complexity – that's why the smartest crowd in town converges at the Marina Bay Sands Singapore every September.

As the IoT, Smart Cities, Big Data and Clouds drive the industry forward, and innovations such as machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) change the roles of IT and data centre professionals, DCD Events aim to bring greater integration across the IT stack, whilst not forgetting the engine. Join 1,500 professionals whose day job it is to keep the digital world up and running. From "mud to cloud", this event covers the full ecosystem, from how data centres are being re-define by the economics of digital business, to how IT and data centre service delivery are being re-shaped.

With 100+ hours of expert panels, keynote presentations, interactive workshops and roundtables, not to mention an expo showcasing 70 of the latest technologies – this really is an event not to be missed! In less than 48 hours you will network, learn and share your way to a more decisive 2017-18.



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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