



DCS AWARDS 2024

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DCS Awards - the Winners' Spotlight

Celebrating the very best in Data Centre and Digital Infrastructure Innovation



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DCS 2024 Data Centre ICT Storage Innovation of the Year: Open-E JovianDSS Up30

Discover Unrestricted Virtualization with Open-E JovianDSS: The Most Compatible Solution!

Explore our latest virtualization guide for 2024 and break free from vendor lock-in with our hypervisor-agnostic software. Choose from various hypervisors to boost your data storage reliability and performance! Achieve this with hypervisor-agnostic data storage software! Design and virtualize your system according to your needs!

- **Efficient utilization of your existing hardware** by optimizing resource allocation and minimizing wastage allows you to achieve higher performance and cost savings without the need for additional hardware investment.
- **Multiple layers of data protection** by implementing a comprehensive approach to data protection, employing multiple layers of security measures like On- & Off-site Data Protection or High-Availability Clustering to safeguard your data from various threats, providing all-in-one Business Continuity, and Disaster Recovery tools.
- **High data availability** by utilizing technologies such as redundant data storage architectures, failover mechanisms, and load balancing, you minimize downtime and ensure continuous access to your data, even in the event of hardware failures or maintenance activities
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Choose your hardware, select a hypervisor, and integrate it with a highly adaptable software solution to create a data storage environment free from vendor lock-in.

Welcome to 2024, the year of hardware- and hypervisor-agnostic data storage infrastructures!



**Download the brochure to check out how
hypervisor-agnosticism works in practice!**

Learn more about

Open-E JovianDSS



DCS AWARDS WINNER 2024

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EDGE DATACENTER PROJECT OF THE YEAR: SMART TEXTILE TRANSITION 5.0

SMS Engineering has designed and developed a smart IOT EDGE for SMART TEXTILE TRANSITION 5.0 to support Digital Transformation, Environment, and People of a major Fashion Brand. This investment has been made with the aim of integrating new technologies into their production, including Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing and analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity platform, backup and energy efficiency sustainability across the entire IT network. Thanks to this important Edge project, the client company is now able to manage and optimize all aspects of the production processes from design to production and supply chain for the new factory 5.0.



The new IOT EDGE for TRANSITION 5.0 allows real-time data processing and insights to make smarter and faster decisions about their business with the highest level of security and sustainability for energy consumption. This smart EDGE infrastructure increases the efficiency and profitability of the entire production activity. With the aim of ensuring maximum resilience, local management in total data security, SMS Engineering has implemented a LAN and WAN Fault Tolerance Network to ensure data flow from the CLOUD to the Edge with the highest standards of Cybersecurity protection and Business Continuity available today.

Thanks to the implementation of IOT Edge SMART TEXTILE TRANSITION 5.0, treatment activity takes place near the physical location of the user processing the data or the data source, in order to reduce latency and save bandwidth.

The project was developed starting from a Risk Assessment that highlighted all vulnerabilities of all local, central and remote systems connected to the corporate network and it was immediately necessary to implement an end-to-end architecture on all levels, from physical to application, pervasively across the entire network.

*Thank you so much all who voted,
and congratulations
to our fellow DCS Awards 2024 winners!
Visit our website to learn about
SMS Engineering's projects.*

[SMS Engineering](#)





Celebrating the Data Centre Industry's Impressive Achievements!

DESPITE (or because of) key challenges such as sustainability, an impending skills shortage, supply chain disruption and the looming opportunity/threat of AI, the data centre industry continues to provide and develop further the extraordinarily reliable infrastructure technology platform on which today's digital world relies on. The DCS Awards once again showcased the companies and individuals who have significantly contributed to the success of the data centre industry.



The awards evening began as it intended to proceed, filled with data centre industry professionals socialising, networking, and enjoying themselves in anticipation of an evening filled with good food, great comedy, and outstanding awards. The MC for the night was our very own Mark Hinds who introduced the winners onto the stage.

Projects, product innovations, individuals, and companies were justly rewarded for their efforts over the past year. The event celebrated impressive customer successes, technology advancements, corporate initiatives, and individual brilliance.

By the end of the evening, there was a palpable sense of collective achievement, recognizing the industry's extensive accomplishments across various areas

This publication salutes our winners. I'm confident that at least one of them can assist your organization in its journey toward digital infrastructure transformation. Take some time to discover their achievements and be inspired by their expertise.

Happy reading, and thank you to all our awards finalists. Congratulations to all the winners!

Sukhi Bhadal, CEO, Angel Business Communications



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GREENFIELD PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Eviden provides modular data centre to host Europe's first exascale supercomputer

EVIDEN has been awarded a contract by Jülich Supercomputing Centre (Germany) to build the modular data center to host the EuroHPC JUPITER supercomputer, Europe's first exascale system. This contract follows the recent announcement of Eviden leading the consortium to manufacture the JUPITER system, in October 2023, a renewed mark of confidence from Jülich Supercomputing Centre.

Through a unique conception, Eviden will bring together a set of about 50 pre-built and interchangeable modules – amongst which are 20 IT containers, 15 power feed containers and 10 logistic containers (lobby, workshop, warehouse etc.) – over 2,300m² to form a complete turnkey data center. Key benefits for the client include the fact that this modular solution brings more flexibility and agility in the long term by facilitating smoother updates or replacement of single modules, independently from the rest of the system.

Unlike current systems with which the dismantling of an obsolete system and upgrading the datacenter to support new technologies can take weeks or month and incur long unavailability, with this system all it takes is to remove a module and replace it by one

featuring an upgraded IT configuration. The same is true for the power sub-system and the logistic area.

Compared to traditional 'brick and mortar' datacenters, this innovative and flexible approach shows once again Eviden's integration capabilities to deliver a full end-to-end HPC solution with costs cut by 3 and a delivery time reduced by 50%. Manufactured in Eviden's factory in Angers (France), the JUPITER HPC racks will be integrated into the containers along with cooling, power, networking and cabling directly on the factory floor, before client delivery. This key step dramatically speeds up the installation process and reduces the risk of default discovery once on the customer's site.

As the overall eco-efficiency of any HPC system has become a key concern, this modular data center will also help reduce energy consumption, improve the recycling of the material used and will globally improve the energy efficiency. Through Eviden's free cooling technology integrated with the supercomputer's patented direct liquid cooling, the heat generated by the Exascale system will also offer an improved capacity to reuse within the Jülich Research Center.



DATA CENTRE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Securing £1.45 million annual data centre cooling energy saving for Virgin Media O2

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- How the software has helped Virgin Media O2 secure some £1.45 million of annual cooling energy savings per year – a 15% reduction in data centre cooling costs across 20 Virgin Media O2 UK sites
- Translating into a quantifiable 800 tonnes offset contribution to Virgin Media O2's carbon reduction goals and ESG objectives
- EkkoSense solution eases pressure on data centre operations teams, with capabilities such as Cooling Advisor, ESG Reporting and Automated Reporting.

FINDING WAYS to cut carbon usage in data centres is challenging when today's IT operations are tasked with running ever-increasing workloads. However corporate net zero commitments are also unforgiving, and data centre operations teams have to find answers to this challenge. EkkoSense's EkkoSoft Critical software solution, with its ability to secure data centre cooling energy savings and quantifiable carbon reduction, is a great way for data centre teams to support their broader corporate ESG commitments.

The AI-powered optimisation software not only shows what's happening, but also why - allowing teams to make informed decisions on how to resolve issues. And, by introducing powerful algorithms that correlate the relationship between the critical infrastructure and IT load, they can materially reduce potential downtime events through continual optimisation. The software observes changes in the environment in real-time and will often inform you that a failure is going to occur long before it materialises.

Developed by the EkkoSense team based out of the University of Nottingham's Innovation Centre, the company's software is now used by many of the world's leading organisations, with deployments ranging from the edge of the Amazon and South



Africa to New York, Virginia, Amsterdam and London.

Translating data into energy savings and ESG sustainability benefits for Virgin Media O2 Virgin Media O2 tasked EkkoSense with optimising the cooling performance of 20 of its UK data centres.

Installing sensors, deploying the EkkoSoft Critical software and optimising thermal performance took an average two weeks per Virgin Media O2 site. The EkkoSense team was able to optimise the cooling performance of the 20 Virgin Media O2 sites in just six months during 2023, helping accelerate the time to savings. Key benefits for the project to date included:

- Initial cooling energy savings across 20 sites, equivalent to an annual saving of £1.45m per year that represents an average 15% saving in data centre cooling energy across the target sites
- This energy saving is equivalent to a 800 tonnes average annual carbon emissions offset - delivering a quantifiable carbon saving in support of Virgin Media O2's corporate sustainability goals



DATA CENTRE CONSOLIDATION / UPGRADE PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Loughborough University drives data centre efficiency and reliability with Schneider Electric and on365

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY is today ranked world number one for sports-related subjects, and is home to the UK's largest concentration of world-class sporting facilities.

With an attending body of 19,500 students across its 523-acre campus. IT is fundamental to its operations, from its high-performance computing (HPC) servers, which support analytical research projects, to a highly virtualised data centre environment that provisions critical applications including finance, administration, and security.

By working diligently and with care and precision, on365 and Schneider Electric were able to undertake and complete, without any disruption to IT services, a major data centre redesign, modernisation, and business continuity project, all

while students continued to access their educational applications.

The project included modernising legacy systems for improved efficiencies, the deployment of software to deliver greater visibility of its distributed IT assets, and a complete retrofit of both its data centres – all without any interruption to continuity and achieving an SLA-goal of 100% uptime.

“Having a well-structured preventative maintenance program was vital to ensure that the data centre and IT systems are optimised and operationally efficient,” said Carl Richardson, Technology Support Manager, on365 Ltd. “At on365, we’ve continued to collaborate closely with the university, not only to provide them with significant value, but to ensure they can meet their strict procurement governance whilst having access to our extensive support and services capabilities.”

Following the success of the project, the university also signed a new three-year Schneider Electric services agreement with on365, to give it access to 24x7 expert maintenance and support, reflecting its ongoing commitment to protecting the investments in its new infrastructure, and ensuring the equipment is fully operational, reliable, and quality maintained.

By modernising its infrastructure with the latest in resilient, sustainable and energy efficient technologies and harnessing the power of both data analytics and predictive maintenance, the university has futureproofed its campus to support new breakthroughs in sporting research.





CLOUD PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

SARDINA

Revolutionising the cloud economy: Integrated Solution that reduces costs by 50%

SARDINA SYSTEMS, a European operation management software developer and vendor, introduces Integrated Solution, a comprehensive cloud solution that provides customers with hardware and software in one bundle.

It significantly streamlines the experience and simplifies procurement and maintenance, offering a single point of contact for both software and hardware. Integrated Solution allows customers to focus on key business priorities. More importantly, Sardina Systems' Integrated Solution provides remarkable budget savings and resource usage reduction when compared to popular public cloud alternatives.

With this project, Sardina Systems successfully implemented its Integrated Solution for GRASS-MERKUR, one of the leading players in Germany's data centre services, consulting, and software development. Integrated Solution combined FishOS, Sardina Systems' fully automated and innovative cloud management software, with modern, reliable hardware from Vespertec.

The project brought GRASS-MERKUR the following benefits:

- 50% reduction in cloud infrastructure expenses
- Notable reduction in administrators' workload
- Noticeable improvement performance of GRASS-MERKUR's virtual machines for clients
- 10% reduction in energy consumption.



EDGE PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Intelligent IoT EDGE for SMART TEXTILE - TRANSITION 5.0

This is The EDGE Project of the YEAR - TRANSITION 5.0

The name Angelo Carillo in Italy has been synonymous with craftsmanship and excellence in the home textile sector since 1952.

The brand's catalogu is enriched with new products with each collection, offering elegant and refined answers to all needs from the world of furniture and interior design. Each item is born as a perfect combination of comfort and trend, aesthetics and functionality. The high quality of the products, with attention to every detail, is accompanied by the high level of customer attention, supported in every request by the sales network and the efficient customer service.

With the aim of supporting the growth of the business, Angelo Carillo relied on the skills of SMS Engineering to create a technological refresh for

his Edge Data Center in his headquarters at the Nola Interport (Naples). The Project is a whole infrastructure Edge solution started from customer's needs, design phase, delivery, construction, on-site test, digital services with software monitoring and maintenance contractor.

In particular SMS delivered and intelligent infrastructure cabling systems from Core Networking Rack to Edge Racks, Business Continuity to Edge Infrastructure, Deliver and Implement Hypervisor Centralized Managed Solution, a Network Lan of 10Gigabit with correct segmentations of WLAN. Was implemented a Cybersecurity solution to prevent intrusion and a automated Back Up Cloud solution all protected with firewall.

SMS Engineering designed and implemented the whole integrated Edge Solution with TOP IT Vendors like CISCO, DELL and Schneider Electric.



DATA CENTRE POWER INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Huawei PowerPOD Solution

What are your product's/solution's key distinguishing features and/or USP?

HUAWEI POWERPOD solution integrates the full-power link devices as UPS, load feeder, battery cabinet, and air conditioner, monitoring devices into a prefabricated module in the factory, providing a MW-level integrated power supply, distribution, and backup solution for large-scale data centers. It can be deployed outdoors without buildings. The PowerPOD solution features smaller footprint, higher efficiency, faster delivery and higher flexibility. Because it's not included in the data center campus's floor area, the footprint of datahall is reduced by 15%. With prefabrication and commissioning in the factory, the delivery period of the power system is shortened from 30 weeks to 18 weeks, accelerating service rollout for customers. The iPower intelligent feature, which provides end-to-end visualized management as well as predictive maintenance, ensuring system security. Building-free deployment leads to flexible capacity expansion.

What tangible impact has your product/solution had on the market and your customers?

Firstly, compared with the traditional power supply and distribution system, Huawei PowerPOD shortens the TTM by about 40%, helping customers quickly roll out services. Secondly, compared with the traditional power supply and distribution system (maximum system efficiency: 94.5%), the link efficiency of Huawei PowerPOD solution can be improved to 98.4% under different rated linear load working conditions. For example, using PowerPOD in a 12 MW data center will save nearly 300,000 U.S. dollars each year.

What are the major differentiators between your product/solution and those of your primary competitors?

Footprint saving: By using a converged architecture, ultra-high-density UPS, and powerful integration capability, the maximum power capacity in one module can reach 3MW compared with 2MW of competitors.



Power saving: All links are converged. Huawei PowerPOD increases the efficiency from 94.5% to 97.8% while shortening the link length.

Time saving: Huawei PowerPOD is prefabricated and pre-commissioned in the factory and can be put into operation upon onsite connection, shortening the delivery period by over 40% and meeting the requirements for fast delivery.

Worry free: The iPower intelligent feature, which provides E2E visibility as well as AI temperature prediction, life prediction of key components to achieve predictive O&M.

In Malaysia, COLO customer uses Huawei PowerPOD solution. Compared with those in a conventional solution, the power supply and distribution systems used in the new solution with 54 pcs PowerPOD modules take up 15% less datahall space in the 60MW data center campus.

In addition, products are prefabricated in the factory, ensuring faster TTM in 18 weeks. AI technology is used to implement predictive maintenance, making the power supply system safer and more reliable.



DATA CENTRE POWER DISTRIBUTION UNIT OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Raritan PX4 Rack PDU

THE NEW Raritan PX4 Rack PDU provides the most flexible and intelligent rack PDU solution in the market while maintaining best-in-class features that solve the most common and future-focused data center challenges. This next-generation rack PDU builds on the intelligence of the Xerus™ Technology Platform by adding industry-proven, flexible outlet technology and a set of new ground-breaking intelligence features that deliver unsurpassed outlet and power density, best-in-class flexibility, rock-solid reliability, and the most accurate real-time visibility relating to the health and quality of your IT power chain.

Features include:

- **ADVANCED POWER QUALITY MONITORING & METRICS:** Integrate $\pm 0.5\%$ energy metering accuracy with existing and groundbreaking rack-based metrics such as Neutral Voltage, Total Harmonic Distortion, Voltage Dips and Swells and Crest Factor.
- **CIRCUIT BREAKER TRIP FORENSICS WITH WAVEFORM CAPTURE:** Ensures that when a circuit breaker trip occurs, users have intuitive Waveform visualizations and data insights to understand which outlet caused an event quickly. Coupled with Outlet On Prevention, users can repower non-offending equipment, thus resolving issues before they become more significant problems.

- **XERUS™ TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:** Combines hardware, software, and communication technologies to form the backbone of the PX4 Rack PDU. This flexible and mature platform helps maximize data center efficiency and your rack PDU investment by delivering security, white space instrumentation, high compute power, advanced alerting, and complete visibility into the power chain. It also offers unmatched interoperability by supporting popular protocols such as SNMP, MODBUS, and open REST-based APIs, including a new Redfish® API.
- **HDOT OUTLETS:** The High Density Outlet Technology (HDOT®) design removes unnecessary outlet molding to provide the most outlets per PDU form factor to support high-density rack requirements.
- **HDOT Cx OUTLETS:** A hybrid of IEC C13 and C19 outlets, the HDOT Cx® outlet accommodates both C20 and C14 power cables in a single outlet. It reduces complexity, increases flexibility, and simplifies the PDU selection process.
- **RAMLOCK LOCKING TECHNOLOGY:** A rugged and intuitive outlet and power cord locking system secures power cords to the PX4 PDU. Its auto-lock and manual release lever allows unplugging with a one-handed “squeeze and pull” action.
- **ALTERNATING BRANCH OUTLETS:** Groups outlets into branches on a repeating and distinguishable pattern over the length of the PDU, simplifying load balancing and device installation while keeping patch cables shorter and away from the airflow path. It also lessens out-of-balance loads that can cause heating in the neutral current line.
- **45-DEGREE ANGLED INFEEED:** A flexible infeed cord design that reduces the number of PDU configurations needed. It supports bottom or front entries in this one-size-fits-all feature, saving money and time. The bend radius is suitable for cords rated up to 60A 3-Phase without degrading performance.





DATA CENTRE COOLING INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

FläktGroup

Revolutionising data centre cooling with Hydro-DENCO

IN THE HEADY WORLD of Data Centre cooling, our customers said that they wanted Resilience, Energy Efficiency, Scalability and Sustainability. This then formed the basis of a £3M research and development programme for our global engineering teams. They were tasked to deliver, and deliver they have with the new Hydro Denco solution!

The Hydro Denco system differs from previous concepts in that it offers extremely energy efficient cooling, but without any of the complexity associated with other technologies. Hydro Denco meets the requirements of the most demanding designers but will also be safe if left in the hands of the lowest bidder for the maintenance contract!

How does Hydro Denco work?

A very high efficiency indoor cooling coil is supplied with glycol solution from a very high efficiency external heat rejection coil. The term High Efficiency can be interpreted in several ways. In this case, we mean that the cooling coil can supply air at a temperature only 2K higher than that of the entering water, without significant air or water side pressure losses. Similarly, the heat rejection coil can lower the water temperature to within 4K of the prevailing external ambient wet bulb temperature, such that there is only a 6K uplift between indoor and outdoor conditions. A small, EC pump runs only at a speed necessary to provide sufficient heat transfer to maintain Data Centre conditions. Integral touch screen controls adjust the speed of the pump and external fans to maintain the desired supply air temperature, whilst the internal fans modulate to provide a constant temperature difference between supply and return air.

Sounds simple - What's the limitations?

In order to obviate the requirement for any mechanical refrigeration, the Data Centre needs to be located where the maximum external wet bulb temperature is 6K or more below the maximum desired supply air temperature to the servers. Even for a conservative 28° supply temperature, the required external wet bulb of 22°C would permit



deployment anywhere in Northern Europe and many other locations worldwide.

Ease of installation and commissioning

Simply run flow and return pipework, together with power and a control pair between indoor and outdoor units, to provide maximum resilience through multiple, autonomous systems. As an example, a 200kW cooling system would require only DN80 piping and the controls read water temperatures and flow rate for ease of commissioning.

The proof of the pudding

Hydro Denco units with sensible cooling capacities of up to 250kW are already installed around the world, achieving cooling partial Power Utilisation Effectiveness (pPUE) figures of up to 1.15 in peak summer, reducing to around 1.05 during winter and some mid-season conditions.

With an annualised pPUE of around 1.1, part load performance gets somewhat better, as thanks to the cube law, a system running at only 80% design cooling capacity will require only 50% of the design energy input and running at 50% design cooling capacity this falls to a mere 20% of energy input. You don't have to take our word for all this either, as Hydro Denco units incorporate their own energy monitoring systems within the on-board controls!



DATA CENTRE SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



DynaFlex Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

THE Vertiv™ DynaFlex Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) stands as a game-changing innovation. This solution, available in North America and EMEA, embodies versatility and represents a crucial step toward a dynamic and robust power architecture. By enabling seamless integration of various alternative energy sources like solar, wind, and hydrogen fuel cells, the Vertiv DynaFlex BESS redefines energy management possibilities for organizations, providing an always-on hybrid energy solution. At its core, the lithium-ion batteries within the Vertiv DynaFlex BESS provide utility-scale energy support for extended durations, facilitating effortless transitions between different energy sources. When coupled with the optional Vertiv DynaFlex EMS (Energy Management System), this system unlocks advanced energy management strategies. These strategies encompass demand management, energy sharing or selling back to the grid, potentially reducing utility energy consumption, cutting costs, and generating revenue.

Vertiv™ DynaFlex BESS promotes the adoption of sustainable energy practices by effectively managing the balance between energy supply and demand. It achieves this by seamlessly integrating renewable energy resources, postponing the need for grid infrastructure investments, and generating

additional sources of revenue. The surplus electricity generated from renewable sources can be efficiently stored in battery energy storage systems (BESS) that utilize lithium-ion batteries. As a result, the storage of excess electricity from renewable sources in lithium-ion battery energy storage systems guarantees the availability of clean energy during periods of high demand, thereby making a significant contribution towards a greener and more sustainable future.

Vertiv DynaFlex BESS broadens the energy management toolkit, empowering organizations to harness the strengths of alternative energy generation assets while transforming the traditional utility-provider relationship into a complementary aspect of a more dynamic, efficient, and reliable energy mix.

Vertiv DynaFlex uses UL9540A lithium-ion batteries to provide utility-scale energy storage that can be used as an always-on power supply. As a result, facilities and power management teams can use this battery energy storage system to smooth out power usage and seamlessly transition to an always-on battery-enabled power supply whenever needed. Organizations can reduce operating expenses costs, such as peak demand charges, on an ongoing basis. They can also participate in energy arbitrage and other services, enhancing profitability. This design not only minimizes fire risks but also ensures adaptability and scalability, catering to diverse operational needs.

Tailored for mission-critical environments such as data centres and high-value manufacturing plants, data centres, and other facilities where power plays a critical role, the Vertiv™ DynaFlex BESS's power conversion system provides virtually instantaneous output, minimizing delays during transitions between hybrid power sources. Its integration with a UPS system bolsters reliability and efficiency, significantly mitigating the risk of data centre outages and reducing reliance on diesel generators.





DATA CENTRE PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



AFL introduces DCI solutions

IN AN EFFORT to revolutionize the way businesses connect and operate their data centers, AFL is excited to introduce its two new cutting-edge Data Center Interconnect (DCI) solutions – Connectorised and Splice. Both solutions are crafted using state-of-the-art technology, including AFL's innovative Wrapping Tube Cable (WTC) with SpiderWeb Ribbon® (SWR®) technology.

DCI is the direct link between two or more data centers, modeled to facilitate high-speed, secure and reliable communication and data transfer between these facilities. AFL's DCI solutions allow operators to form an integrated network that shares resources, balances workloads and boosts overall productivity.

“We understand the need of cost-effectiveness and efficiency in business,” said Daniel Rose, Commercial Director of AFL Connectivity for Europe, Middle East and Asia. “That’s why our DCI solutions are specifically designed to facilitate rapid and effective data center networking, improve operational efficiency, optimize data center operations and maintain prompt project execution due to our comprehensive suite of products available worldwide, offering robust, high-quality infrastructure that consistently delivers superior performance and stability.”

DCI Connectorized solutions allow operators to quickly and easily cross connect data centers, simplifying data center design, build and deployment. AFL's cable and connectivity solutions, including Ultra-High Fiber Count MPO Trunk Assembly, Ultra-High Fiber Count Patch frame, MPO Trunk Assemblies, ASCEND® Housings and ASCEND MPO Patch Cassettes, ensure rapid and reliable communication throughout the data center. This results in lower costs, reduced deployment time, the maximization of pathway space and



enhanced operational efficiency. Designed to enhance network performance, future-proof and accelerate a network's growth, AFL's DCI Splice solutions offer a fast and effective way to provide connections across a campus or metro environment utilizing WTC with SWR technology.

This combination can be installed 60-75% faster when using mass-fusion splicing compared to single fiber. Data center operators can achieve a DCI Splice link with Flame-Retardant RI Indoor, Flame-Retardant RIO Indoor/Outdoor and Outside Plant cable – all of which use WTC with SWR technology. Mass-Fusion Splice Cabinet and U-Series Front-Access V-Panel (FVP) 6RU are two other DCI splice solutions.

“These innovative offerings allow customers to link multiple data centers, forming an integrated network that enhances productivity, balances workloads, and meets the demands of growing bandwidth and cloud migration requirements,” continued Rose.



DATA CENTRE INTELLIGENT AUTOMATION AND MANAGEMENT INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Unlocking the future of datacenters

THE DATACENTER INDUSTRY is changing fast, with ever-more complex facilities to be built swiftly and efficiently amidst rapidly evolving technological and regulatory standards.

At the same time, the convergence of Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) is removing the need for fragmented systems, disparate data sources, and limited visibility into critical processes.

Despite this evolution, some legacy BMS suppliers remain entrenched in outdated models. Often built around proprietary hardware, these are slow to deploy, slow to scale, and slow to adapt, with inherent limitations to operational visibility. Today's datacenter operators need high resolution, real-time data delivered in a unified model that enables data-driven planning and decision-making.

Gapit Nordics has taken a fresh approach and built, from the ground up, a modular, all-in-one system tailored specifically to meet the needs of modern datacenters.

Our vendor-agnostic, software-driven approach eliminates the need for custom hardware and leads the way to an efficient, scalable, and future-proof

datacenter ecosystem. The forward-thinking design and architecture of our offering delivers the freedom and flexibility to quickly integrate with a diverse range of suppliers, technologies, and platforms. Quick to deploy, it is reliable and resilient even in the face of the most demanding operational conditions.

We have built a comprehensive library of ready-to-go industrial integrations. From UPS to HVAC, breakers to batteries, and grid analyzers to generators, our systems support your freedom to choose from any supplier and to evolve your operational infrastructure over time.

The Gapit system comes not only with the operational monitoring and control you would expect from a BMS, but also with analytical dashboards, alerting, and reporting. Out-of-the-box and ready-to-go. Combine these features with unparalleled access to all operational data points and you have single source of truth for the entire datacenter team, both real-time and historical, from signal to screen, without limitations.

Among the many benefits enjoyed by our customers, perhaps the top three are:

- **Full simulation:** the ability to train operators even before the datacenter is completed, ensuring seamless integration and familiarity from day one.
- **All data, always:** Unrestricted access to all data points, across the OT network, without incurring additional costs or restrictions.
- **Scalability:** The Gapit system is specifically designed to accommodate future growth and evolving requirements, for example due to merger or acquisition.

Already supporting more than 420MW across Scandinavia, Gapit Nordics are committed to the long-term success of our customers. With continuous product development and managed services, we ensure the recurring value of our software products.





DATA CENTRE SAFETY & SECURITY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Panduit cable cleats for short-circuit mitigation to safeguard life & minimize building damage

- Panduit has developed a ANSYS award-winning software program that simulates the material composition of its cable cleats, and the electromechanical forces present in a short circuit fault
- The cable cleats are then tested to IEC 61914:2015, utilising a live short circuit fault test to validate compliance with this standard
- The simulation tool allow Panduit to select the most appropriate materials for the cleats, so they perform to their tested kA rating during a short circuit fault
- During a short circuit event maximum electromechanical stress between conductors occurs at or before 0.005 seconds, typical circuit breakers trip at between 0.06 to 1.0 seconds.



WHETHER the electrical power infrastructure application is data centre, industrial development or enterprise, an electrical short circuit is a major cause of concern when power outages can cause disruption and possible financial loss to the capabilities of the site.

Data centres require large scale provision of electrical distribution systems which are designed to power equipment safely and reliably. Electrical flow problems, such as short-circuits, can cause major damage both thermally and electro-dynamically to buildings, equipment, supply cables and human life. The disruption to the facility from an outage could shut down operations for a costly length of time.

Short circuits can happen anywhere along the electrical distribution system. The fault occurs when an abnormal connection between two nodes of an electric circuit is made. Panduit research illustrates that during a short circuit event, maximum electromechanical stress between conductors occurs at or before 0.005 seconds. Current levels in these events can reach 200kA. In the worst case scenario in a 3-phase short, magnetic field induced repulsive forces between cables can range upwards of 10,000-pounds. Typical circuit-breakers trip and interrupt a fault between 0.06 to 1.0 second, allowing time for substantial damage to occur.



DCIM / DC MANAGEMENT INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



DCIM customer interface

THE CUSTOMER can access the DCIM interface with his own private password and specially defined SSL VPN and see only his own cabins.

Here, they can instantly view the temperature, humidity, energy and inventory information in their cabins and print out reports in PDF and Excel formats. It can also create automatic reports periodically in the desired format. In this way, the customer can quickly access the data he wants.

The most important feature that distinguishes it from other projects can be explained as design, reporting and providing instant data to customers quickly. There is no other example of an interface offered to the customer. This interface has been serviced and extra revenue has been generated.

Our customers can instantly access temperature, humidity, energy and inventory information in their cabins 24/7 and also pull monthly, daily and annual reports. It can also view inventory layouts and cabinets in 3D and 2D.

Our operations teams respond to customer demands with the opened records, but there is a lot

of workload and loss of time in delivering them to the customer.

We increased customer satisfaction with this solution. It also increased customer satisfaction by eliminating tickets and negativities from customers. When the customer needs an urgent report or wants to make cabin planning, he can see in detail the location of the inventories in his cabins on a U basis. Thus, it provides benefits by creating planning quickly and effectively.

The most innovative aspect of our DCIM customer interface project is to provide the customer with real-time data from the cabinets in the data center, to provide the opportunity to receive reporting, and to make it available for direct customer use other than data center operators.

This innovation is the most important step in the transition to virtual environments. It can be considered as the first stage of presenting to customers with a data center in a virtual environment such as metaverse. As a design, all information used in the white area is presented to the customer in accordance with reality.



EDGE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



SmartHub Data Center Eco System

WE DESIGNED our Tier III SmartHub Dubai Datacenter, located in a strategic place in the vicinity of our largest satellite station offering seamless future technologies, designed to maximize energy efficiency through various green initiative and create a state-of-the-art facility.

SmartHub Dubai is our 4th facility, which is launched after our success in Fujairah and Kalba which are on the North-east side of UAE. All our data centers are interconnected with gateways through robust terrestrial ring fiber & Sub-sea networks.

Our idea for SmartHub Dubai's project was to convert Jebel Ali's old teleport exchange to have submarine cables and transit satellite, build hyperscalers and edge datacenter around it, connecting it to multiple submarine beach manholes that land regional and international cables to support the connectivity in the region and globally. This design provides excellent quality, redundancy, and reliability in serving the local community, regional and international customers.

SmartHub connects 2 billion people in the region within a latency of 30 milliseconds or less. Which's a key requirement for customers hosting edge node to serve middle east region.

Being Directly connected to cables from our Submarine landing Station or terrestrial boarders, our Data Centers connecting the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, with diverse connectivity, low latency, and reliability to ensure enhanced availability and excellent customers experience. With the introduction of SmartHub Dubai, business complexity has been minimized and major support to hyper-scalers, CDNs, carriers, video streaming, gaming platforms, financial services providers, and others are key customers of SmartHub eco-system, for whom we provide access around the world for edge nodes, caching servers in SmartHub being a reliable and a highly connected eco-system.



Innovation in serving the community

The innovative technology we used, which is proximity to the cable landing stations, gives this new facility a competitive edge due to minimal backhaul requirements, offering a great value to wholesale customers seeking cost-effective edge network connectivity. It helped us to overcome challenges and enabled us to establish a new EMIX Gateway connected with diverse DWDM network, increase power capacity per rack, have advanced MEP & DRUP systems to provide uninterrupted power supply to cater largely for Hyperscaler's advanced capacity needs., and focus on sustainability DC environment to achieve for zero-carbon by 2030.

SmartHub impact

SmartHub Datacenters have delivered an outstanding end-user performance over the years, which was the main reason to continue in expanding our footprint in the UAE. Creation of DC's concretizes our network enhancement via new Internet traffic gateways, DWDM networks, hosting new Sub-Sea cable systems, Addressing Hyperscaler's & OTT needs. A single data center window for all next generation needs. SmartHub DataCenter gives our customers the privilege of interconnecting with industry peers, partners, and suppliers.



DATA CENTRE ICT STORAGE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Open-E JovianDSS Up30

OPEN-E JovianDSS Up30, the latest version of Open-E's flagship software product, has been released with a host of groundbreaking features and enhancements. This version is a pure reflection of the Open-E's commitment to providing cutting-edge data storage solutions that elevate the user experience in terms of performance, reliability, safety, and cost efficiency.

A standout feature in the Open-E JovianDSS Up30 is the introduction of ZFS Special Devices, enriching the range of data storage strategies. This innovative addition allows users to allocate dedicated high-performance storage devices, such as SSDs or NVMe drives, for storing specific types of data like metadata or small file blocks. By implementing data-type tiering, the system prioritizes metadata and small records, resulting in a significant boost in the overall storage system performance.

NVMe Partitioning is another noteworthy enhancement, offering users the ability to partition NVMe disk space. This feature optimizes NVMe capacity utilization, providing flexibility to use a single device for both read cache and write log, and even create an additional partition for Special Devices. The result is a streamlined storage

architecture, cost savings, and simplified system management.

The Open-E JovianDSS Up30 version introduces several improvements to enhance data transmission efficiency. The Send Compressed Data option in On & Off-Site Data Protection enables the transfer of already compressed data, leading to faster transfers and reduced bandwidth usage, particularly advantageous for large dataset transfers.

MacOS Time Machine support is now available over the SMB protocol, facilitating the creation, identification, and restoration of copies. Active Directory enhancements include support for multiple trusted domains without RID conflicts and the configuration of Unix UID and GID through Microsoft Windows Domain Administrator using the rfc2307 AD backend for Samba.

The implementation of Adaptec HPE Smart Storage Administrator support, Self-Encrypting Drives (SED) support for non-shared clusters, Samba Recycle Bin Support for Windows, and Zero-configuration Networking (Zeroconf) Feature Support broadens the capabilities of Open-E JovianDSS Up30, making it a versatile and comprehensive storage solution.

The SSD TRIM functionality for selected drives enhances SSD performance and lifespan, demonstrating Open-E's commitment to optimizing storage technologies. The addition of LSI SNMP Agent Support and a driver for Broadcom HBA 9600-16e 12Gb Tri-Mode Storage Adapter (mpi3mr, v8.6.1.0.0) ensures compatibility with a wider range of hardware.

The new graphical user interface (GUI) features in Open-E JovianDSS Up30 include Active SMB and iSCSI user connection statistics, S.M.A.R.T. monitoring, and ZFS ARC, L2ARC, and ZIL statistics. The Terminal User Interface (TUI) enhancements provide new testing profiles and the ability to manage the Check_mk Agent.





DATA CENTRE ICT SECURITY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



MediaGone 500 Mobile Shredder

THE MEDIAGONE 500 is the most effective and user-friendly shredder Verity Systems has created to date, illuminated by the newest LED lighting technology. The MediaGone 500, which shreds materials to less than 4mm in width, guarantees complete media destruction for users across a variety of industries.

The MediaGone 500 by Verity Systems is a precision-engineered Shredder that safely eliminates a variety of media with the push of a button, including SSDs, Flash Drives, Cell Phones, CDs/DVDs/Blue-Ray, Credit Cards, Hard Drive - platter only. Users may safely see the shredding of SSDs, flash drives, discs, or phones live as they go through the destruction process thanks to its clear polycarbonate dome cover designed with reinforced glass. The MediaGone 500 is available as a tabletop model or mounted to a cabinet on casters for mobility.

Desktop Model: In the stand-alone desktop model, the shredded debris is automatically collected in a 1 gallon drawer accessed from the front of the unit. The drawer simply slides out so the waste can be tipped into a suitable container. The drawer has a clear viewing window allowing the operator to check the waste level at any time.

Mounted on a custom-designed Cabinet with Casters: In this version, the waste is collected in a 5-gallon container which is easily accessed through a clear polycarbonate door at the front of the unit. The level in the container is constantly monitored and displayed on the LCD. The container is illuminated so the operator can see the level and the light color changes to red when full.



Verity Systems DD Imager: The Verity Systems DD Imager seamlessly integrates with the Data Destruction Auditing software, facilitating the capture of high-definition images of media both before and after the erasure process. [Click here for the Verity Systems DD Imager Datasheet.](#)

Barcode Scanner: The barcode scanner accessory allows you to scan the serial and part numbers from media, allowing you to speed up the data entry process.

The MediaGone 500 comes with a standard 12-month manufacturer's warranty. Extended warranties are also available. Our product build quality ensures that whether you opt for an extended warranty or not, our factory-based technical support team can assist you with any unit-related issues. We are available with free phone support and can be contacted via email. This product support is available for the entire lifetime of ownership.



DATA CENTRE ICT NETWORKING INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



WAN acceleration: Expediting data transfers, eliminating data management challenges

WAN ACCELERATION technologies accelerate data transfers that eliminate data management challenges are known as 'WAN acceleration.' Bridgeworks patented artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies accelerate organisations existing technologies and dramatically accelerate their Wide Area Networks (WANs). AI underpins the patented technology to provide process intelligence, mitigating latency and mitigate packet loss.

Accelerating BlackPearl, Securing Data
Spectra Logic: "In our tests, PORTrockIT accelerated BlackPearl's replication performance significantly – in one case, completing the job more than 5 times faster."

BlackPearl is a Spectra Logic platform that aims to make it easy for organisations to preserve data simply, affordably, and safely. It provides a RESTful interface that allows users to store files as objects and uses an onboard cache to accelerate the movement of data on and off long-term storage media, such as disk arrays and tape libraries.

BlackPearl is used to enable geographically dispersed archiving, where data is preserved at multiple sites to reduce the risk of data loss in the event of a disaster. BlackPearl makes this easy to achieve by simply connecting two BlackPearl devices across a wide area network (WAN) connection.

However, whenever data is transferred across a WAN, it is subject to the effects of latency and packet loss – having a dramatic impact on data throughput. Using BlackPearl together with PORTrockIT transforms the performance of data replication across the WAN by counteracting the impact of both latency and packet loss. In every evaluated scenario, PORTrockIT increases transfer rates significantly. For example, it reduced the total transfer time from 247 minutes to just 47 minutes, completing the job more than five times faster.

Accelerated results

With PORTrockIT - When we look at the architecture accelerated by PORTrockIT, the results of the first two test are very much enhanced. At all levels of latency, the average transfer rate (ATR) improves dramatically when PORTrockIT is activated. For example, in Test 1, the worst-case ATR of the accelerated architecture (365 MB/s at 100 ms of latency) is still more than 2.5 times as fast as the best-case ATR of the unaccelerated architecture (145 MB/s at 20 ms of latency). We also see that PORTrockIT keeps total time to completion (TTC) stable, regardless of latency.

In Test 1, the shortest TTC was 39 minutes at 20 ms of latency, and the longest was 46 minutes at 100 ms of latency. In Test 2, the fastest TTC was 36 minutes and the slowest 43 minutes. In both cases, that's a difference of just 7 minutes between the slowest and fastest transfers – suggesting that real-world users can expect their transfers to complete on time, even if latency increases.





DATA CENTRE ICT AUTOMATION / ORCHESTRATION INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Orchestrating Data Democratization in a Climate-Focused Digital World with
DataDynamics' Unified Data Management Software

ESTABLISHED in 2012, Data Dynamics stands as a premier provider of enterprise data management solutions, guiding businesses in orchestrating Data Democratization within an AI-driven, Climate-Focused World. At the heart of our offerings lies the award-winning Unified Data Management (UDM) Software, meticulously crafted to help organizations structure unstructured data and extract unparalleled insights securely, governed, and optimized. Proven in 300 organizations, including 28 Fortune 100 entities, it seamlessly adapts to evolving macroeconomic conditions and the dynamic data landscape through its four modules: Data Analytics, Mobility, Security, and Compliance.

Functioning as a central hub, the UDM Software seamlessly integrates Data Security, Governance, and Intelligence within the guardrails of IT infrastructure. It provides a comprehensive strategy, safeguarding sensitive information and fostering compliance in the ever-changing regulatory environment.

Moreover, Data Dynamics is deeply committed to enhancing the Sustainability Posture of our clients. We embrace a forward-thinking approach to environmental responsibility through eco-conscious data management practices, simplifying the journey for enterprises to achieve their net zero goals. The software's key features include data analytics, enhancing data lifecycle management by providing insights into usage patterns and sensitive data discovery.

It also ensures data security through advanced access control features and precise pattern recognition, while enabling regulatory compliance and governance through data classification and audit logging capabilities.

Moreover, its data mobility feature allows policy-driven automated migration across on-premises and cloud environments, driving intelligent and governed cloud adoption. These features significantly impact data center operations, unlocking cost savings, enhancing productivity, ensuring operational stability, and supporting organizations' net-zero emissions goals by minimizing carbon emissions and environmental impact.

Through these features, our unified data management software has analyzed and migrated a staggering 400PB of data for over 300 clients, with retention rates exceeding 160%. Over the past 12 years, our success stories and achievements have been fueled by our unwavering dedication to excellence. This commitment is evidenced by our exceptional 4.9 out of 5 customer support rating and our industry recognition as one of the Top 20 Coolest Data Management Companies in CRN's 2023 Storage 100 list.

The paramount advantage of our software lies in liberating enterprises from fragmented, point solutions, and disjointed data perspectives. With our UDM software, businesses benefit from a holistic approach that structures unstructured data, unlocks transformative insights, fortifies data security, ensures compliance and governance, and propels efficient cloud data management.

Ultimately, our vision is to empower enterprises toward data democratization, enabling users and consumers to effortlessly access, comprehend, and extract maximum insights from sprawling unstructured data landscapes. At Data Dynamics, we are not just revolutionizing data management we are shaping the future of data control, accessibility, and utilization for enterprises worldwide.



DATA CENTRE ANALYTICS/OBSERVABILITY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Unlocking the Future of Datacenters

THE DATACENTER INDUSTRY is changing fast, with ever-more complex facilities to be built swiftly and efficiently amidst rapidly evolving technological and regulatory standards.

At the same time, the convergence of Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) is removing the need for fragmented systems, disparate data sources, and limited visibility into critical processes. Despite this evolution, some legacy BMS suppliers remain entrenched in outdated models. Often built around proprietary hardware, these are slow to deploy, slow to scale, and slow to adapt, with inherent limitations to operational visibility.

Today's datacenter operators need high resolution, real-time data delivered in a unified model that enables data-driven planning and decision-making.

Gapit Nordics has taken a fresh approach and built, from the ground up, a modular, all-in-one system tailored specifically to meet the needs of modern datacenters. Our vendor-agnostic, software-driven approach eliminates the need for custom hardware and leads the way to an efficient, scalable, and future-proof datacenter ecosystem.

The forward-thinking design and architecture of our offering delivers the freedom and flexibility to quickly integrate with a diverse range of suppliers, technologies, and platforms. Quick to deploy, it is reliable and resilient even in the face of the most demanding operational conditions.

We have built a comprehensive library of ready-to-go industrial integrations. From UPS to HVAC, breakers to batteries, and grid analyzers to generators, our systems support your freedom to choose from any supplier and to evolve your operational infrastructure over time.

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Among the many benefits enjoyed by our customers, perhaps the top three are:

- **Full simulation:** the ability to train operators even before the datacenter is completed, ensuring seamless integration and familiarity from day one.
- **All data, always:** Unrestricted access to all data points, across the OT network, without incurring additional costs or restrictions.
- **Scalability:** The Gapit system is specifically designed to accommodate future growth and evolving requirements, for example due to merger or acquisition.

Already supporting more than 420MW across Scandinavia, Gapit Nordics are committed to the long-term success of our customers. With continuous product development and managed services, we ensure the recurring value of our software products.





MANAGED SERVICES / COLOCATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HOST-IT.CO.UK

Host-IT keeps the wheels turning at logistics software firm

HOST-IT's Birmingham colocation data centre has been selected by Tamworth based tmWare for hosting its Disaster Recovery (DR) systems. This follows a review by the warehouse management and transportation logistics solutions specialist of its current and future IT needs. The migration of tmWare's DR backup systems from their in-house location to a more secure and modern data centre environment was seen as a major priority.

Host-IT's Birmingham-based data centre will now support tmWare's main IT stack which has been located at Host-IT's Milton Keynes colocation facility since 2016. Previously we've always hosted our DR in-house but based on our positive experience with Host-IT in Milton Keynes, the relocating of our eight DR server systems and back UPS to their Birmingham facility made a potentially hard decision a lot easier, said Kieron Coughlin, Technical Director, tmWare. Our DR equipment at Host-IT Birmingham will be connected by a high-speed fibre network to our Tamworth office and their Milton Keynes data centre. tmWare has been providing cutting-edge warehouse management software and transport management solutions to the logistics industry for over 30 years.

The firm's tmWare software as a service platform offers customers a comprehensive 360-degree solution for 24/7 warehouse and transport management, ensuring orders are efficiently picked, packed and dynamically scheduled for collection and subsequent on-time delivery by road, rail or air. With thousands of pounds of business at stake with every order fulfilment and delivery, tmWare is mission critical to the performance of their logistics customers. These are reassured by tmWare's



strategic investment in the services of professionally run, highly resilient and secure colocation data centres. In the seven years since entrusting tmWare to Host-IT we have enjoyed a highly professional and personalised service as well as an excellent uptime record, said tmWare's Managing Director, Lyndsey Phillips. Their consistently excellent service and ability to support our current and future needs in a timely manner gives us every confidence as we look to expand our customer base. Equally, in ensuring the high levels of trusted IT delivery we provide to our existing valued customers.

Host-IT's secure ISO 27001, Tier 3 Birmingham facility is centrally located close to the major fibre networks traversing the UK and various regional fibre providers. There is currently 6MW of IT power available to site with the potential to increase this to 12MW.



BEST COLOCATION PROVIDER UPGRADE PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Portus Data Centers announces expansion of Hamburg site

PORTUS DATA CENTERS ("Portus") have announced plans for the further expansion of the IPHH Internet Port Hamburg data centre business acquired by Arcus European Infrastructure Fund 3 SCSp ("AEIF3") on behalf of Portus late last year.

With two existing facilities in the east of Hamburg currently offering 2.4MW of sellable IT power capacity, Portus now plans to construct a new data centre of approximately 14MW of IT power which will be built in phases, the first of which is planned for delivery in late Q4/2025. This follows the acquisition of a substantial plot of land and associated power adjacent to the existing data centre on the Wendenstrasse in Hamburg.

The new IPHH facility will benefit from the already very dense connectivity profile of the current IPHH

facilities, allowing straight forward access to existing networks and providers via a simple cross connect.

Sascha Pollok, CEO of IPHH, said "We are very excited to be able to announce this new and significant expansion phase of our IPHH campus which will ensure we continue to provide our existing and new customers with a market leading service. We are already seeing substantial interest in the planned new facility which is testament to the buoyant Hamburg market for colocation in general and more specifically, highly connected data centres with excellent value added services."

"We are delighted to be investing in the future growth of IPHH following today's land and power acquisition announcement," added Adriaan Oosthoek, Chairman of Portus Data Centers. "This is a further step in our buy-and-build regional data centre aggregation strategy where in all our current and future locations we plan to add further capacity to meet growing customer demand."

IPHH's growing customer base includes telecom carriers, global technology and social media companies and content distribution networks that rely on IPHH's strong interconnection services. Aligning with Arcus' commitment to ensuring that its investments have a positive ESG impact, energy consumed by IPHH's data centres is certified as being 100% renewably sourced. IPHH's highly efficient facilities currently provide a power usage effectiveness ratio of c. 1.3x which is subject to continuous improvement as part of Portus' ongoing commitment to optimising its ESG policies and practices





BEST COLOCATION PROVIDER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Green
Mountain

Green Mountain's SVG1-Rennesoy Data Center

GREEN MOUNTAIN'S SVG1-Rennesoy data center is a unique Tier III certified mountain hall data center in a former high security NATO ammunition storage facility. It runs on 100% renewable energy and has close to zero CO2 footprints.

One of the data center's key features is its fjord-cooling solution, using the adjacent fjord as the cooling source. This cooling solution is extremely efficient and can use less than 3kW of power to gain 1000 kW of cooling.

The facility is Tier III certified by the Uptime Institute and has multiple ISO certifications. It has delivered 100% uptime since the start and has three independent grid supplies to the site, in addition to stand-by generators.

The SVG1-Rennesoy is a prime example of quality, innovation and sustainability.





BEST COLOCATION PROVIDER SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Colt DCS launches new ESG strategy report

COLT DATA CENTRE SERVICES (Colt DCS), a global provider of hyperscale and large enterprise data centre solutions, published its latest Sustainability Highlight report covering the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2022. Launched as Colt DCS' highlights report, the report focuses on the three strategic areas of decarbonising the business, connecting people, and safeguarding the company's operations. Colt DCS has achieved a remarkable 52% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 (market-based) emissions and a 28% reduction in Scope 3 emissions (compared to 2019). These significant reductions highlight the extend of the company's sustainable practices as an industry-leading data centre provider.

The 2022 Sustainability Highlights report showcases the company's significant achievements in the areas of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) for 2022. It highlights Colt DCS' commitment to achieving reduced emissions in line with the SBTi's latest Net Zero Standard. EcoVadis partnership and a top 1% sustainability rating, Colt DCS continues to set data centre industry standards in its ESG practices. The 2022 Sustainability Highlights report was prepared in conjunction with the Colt Group, which comprises Colt Data Centre Services and Colt Technology Services.

Decarbonisation has been a primary focus for Colt DCS, and one of the key pillars in the ESG strategy. Its sustainability targets have been approved by the Science-based Targets initiative (SBTi) in alignment with the latest Net Zero Standard. Colt DCS has successfully reduced its carbon footprint by 30% compared to the 2019 baseline, amounting to an estimated 186,487 tonnes of CO₂e (Carbon dioxide equivalent). This reduction has been aided by the use of 100% renewable energy across its UK and European data centres, all of which are 100% carrier-neutral sites, engaging suppliers more effectively and implementing innovative cooling technologies. Moreover, Colt DCS ensures that its new data centres, such as their ongoing expansion in Paris Frankfurt, India & Japan or across Europe and the Asia-Pacific, adhere to the environmental requirements set down in the Global Reference Design Document.

Colt DCS' ESG strategy goes beyond environmental sustainability and includes a strong focus on social engagement. The company recognises the importance stakeholder engagement across its value chain, including customers, suppliers, local communities and employees, with the aim of making a lasting positive impact in the regions it operates in. The company recognises the importance of effective governance in achieving its goals for inclusion. During the pandemic, Colt DCS introduced designated Wellbeing Days, prioritising the mental and physical health of its workforce.

Colt DCS is striving to create an inclusive culture that values diversity of thought and representative of the communities it operates in. In addition to fostering an inclusive working culture made up of diverse representation, the company is committing to implementing equitable business practices that enhance the employee experience.

Since the 2022 report:Colt DCS are now using 100% renewable energy in their Mumbai and Tokyo Shiohama sites.



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the best MSP for Data Centres

Winner of the 2024 DCS Award 'Data Centre
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You may need help with networking in a new data centre, be unhappy with your current IT support, or just want to work with the best in the industry. Whatever the challenge, OryxAlign is the solution.

With over a decade of experience in data centres, OryxAlign has a loyal team of dedicated experts. Our Cloudtango 5-star score is a testament to our unwavering commitment to service excellence. Book a discovery call to explore the possibilities. After all, it's always good to review suppliers, right?



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DATA CENTRE HOSTING / COLOCATION INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Digital Realty announces the expansion of ServiceFabric

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Digital Realty, a leading global provider of cloud- and carrier-neutral data center, colocation, and interconnection solutions, announced ongoing progress with ServiceFabric™, its service orchestration platform. ServiceFabric™ enables seamless interconnection of workflow participants, applications, clouds, and ecosystems on PlatformDIGITAL®, the company's global data center platform.

Following the recent introduction of Service Directory, a central marketplace that allows Digital

Realty partners to highlight their offerings, over 70 members have joined the directory and listed more than 100 services, including secure and direct connections to over 200 global cloud on-ramps, creating a vibrant ecosystem for seamless interconnection and collaboration.

Service Directory is a core component of the ServiceFabric™ product family that underpins Digital Realty's vision for interconnecting global data communities on PlatformDIGITAL® and enabling customers to tackle the challenges of Data Gravity head-on.



The need for an open interconnection and orchestration platform is critical as an enabler for artificial intelligence (AI) and high-performance compute (HPC), especially as enterprises increasingly deploy private AI applications, which rely on the low latency, private exchange of data between many members of an ecosystem. PlatformDIGITAL® was chosen to be the home of many groundbreaking AI and HPC workloads and ServiceFabric™ was designed with the needs of cutting-edge applications in mind.

A key differentiator is Service Directory's 'Click-to-Connect' capability, which allows customers to orchestrate and automate on-demand connections to the services they need, significantly streamlining workflows and removing manual configuration steps.



DATA CENTRE HOSTING / COLOCATION SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AWARD



CUSTODIAN DATA CENTRES emerges as a beacon of excellence in the UK data center landscape, embodying a service-first ethos, unmatched technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to customer support. Since its establishment in 2008, Custodian Data Centres has been at the forefront of designing, building, and operating data centers that prioritize resilience, redundancy, and customer satisfaction.

At the heart of Custodian's philosophy lies a steadfast dedication to putting the customer first. From the outset, Custodian's data centers have been meticulously designed and engineered to exceed the expectations of its diverse clientele, offering bespoke solutions tailored to meet their unique needs and requirements.

What sets Custodian apart is its genuine commitment to building lasting partnerships with its customers. Far more than just a colocation provider, Custodian positions itself as a trusted ally, offering unwavering support and guidance to businesses

as they navigate the complexities of data infrastructure. With a team of in-house experts spanning from the Network Operations Center (NOC) to Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) engineering, Custodian ensures that customers receive comprehensive support every step of the way.

Custodian's dedication to service excellence is further underscored by its agile and resilient approach to data center operations. Whether working with startups or multinational corporations, Custodian's team of experts stands ready to assist businesses of all sizes and industries, providing critical solutions with agility and reliability.

Moreover, Custodian's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation ensures that its data centers remain at the forefront of industry standards and best practices. With a focus on adaptability and scalability, Custodian's facilities are equipped to support businesses as they grow and evolve in an ever-changing digital landscape.



DATA CENTRE MANAGED SERVICES VENDOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



ORYXALIGN is a data centre-centric MSP that stands out due to its unique approach to customer engagement and services delivery. We provide around-the-clock services, encompassing critical infrastructure management and automation, pre-emptive monitoring and dedicated onsite services. We excel in creating secure network designs, through to carefully managed implementations, and procurement. Moreover, OryxAlign delivers enabling consultancy services on new builds and comprehensive program management, ensuring that its customer data centres are cyber-resilient and at the forefront of technological advancements.

Our managed IT service focuses on infrastructure performance and optimisation, and user experience. Services include cyber awareness training, tech workshops, e-learning platforms, application development and procurement. Our data centre experience spans 13 years. We have been engaged on 16 data centre build projects, and currently support the critical infrastructure for data centres with a combined total of approximately 250 MW. We presently work with seven data centre operators across the UK, Ireland, and mainland Europe. This includes VIRTUS Data Centres (VIRTUS), the UK's largest data centre operator.

We've held a strategic partnership with VIRTUS over the last 10 years and have been instrumental in their rapid expansion from 1 to 11 data centres, thereby securing their market-leading position of today. We have delivered extensive project work and successful organisational change for VIRTUS through the partnership. From the IT design, build and implementation of several of its UK data centres, to a programme of managed infrastructure lifecycle replacement, through to implementing MDR security and SOC services, which has transformed the way the business operates and communicates. All advancements and transformation projects are encompassed in a tailored and effective managed service that delivers tangible results.

"OryxAlign's holistic approach has proven to be a successful formula to help enable us to scale our data centre presence and operations.

Whether it's critical infrastructure upgrades, everyday support, or providing solution design and implementation services, working with the OryxAlign team is a pleasure. Having worked closely with them over the past 10 years, we were happy to recently extend the strategic partnership for a further 3 years," Richard Owen, VIRTUS Data Centres.

January 2024 Data Centre KPIs: Critical Response SLA (100%), Critical Resolution SLA (100%), Infrastructure availability SLA (100%), Overall Response SLA (95%), Overall Resolution SLA (93%), Overall Client Sentiment (95%). "OryxAlign has been a preferred service delivery partner to CBRE since 2019 - engaging in technology projects and maintenance services in our Data Centre Solutions and wider Global Workspace divisions. I'm always impressed with OryxAlign's responsiveness, willingness to help, and industry-specific technical and operational knowledge. No challenge seems too complex - a refreshing attitude in our world of critical property infrastructure and datacentre technology and services," Karl Marko CBRE GWS and Data Centre Solutions.





DATA CENTRE FACILITIES VENDOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Huawei Data Center Facility and Critical Power

ESTABLISHED in June 2021, Huawei Digital Power Technologies Co., Ltd. (Huawei Digital Power for short) is a leading global provider of digital power products and solutions. Focusing on technology convergence and innovation, we aim to accelerate clean energy generation, build green data centers, and sites, and ultimately contribute to zero-carbon buildings, campuses, and cities. Huawei Digital Power operates 12 R&D centers in regions including China, Europe, and Asia Pacific and possesses a total of 2122 valid patents. With approximately 10,000 employees, 60% of whom focus on R&D, Huawei Digital Power serves over 3 billion people in more than 170 countries and regions. In terms of data center facility, Huawei proposes the concept of GSSR (Green, Simple, Smart, Reliable) to develop three scenario-specific low-carbon solutions for large data centers, small- and medium-sized data centers, and critical power supply to power the digital era forward.

With over 30 years of experience in data center construction and operation, Huawei's products and solutions are widely used in various industries, including colocation, carriers, finance, government, manufacturing, and transportation, etc. To date, Huawei has successfully delivered more than 1000 large-scale data center projects with our partners together, providing more than 14GW capacity. According to Omdia and Frost & Sullivan, Huawei's modular UPS has ranked No. 1 in global market share for seven consecutive years, its modular data center has ranked No. 1 in global by market share for five consecutive years, and its prefabricated modular data center has ranked No. 1 in global by market share for eight consecutive years.

Huawei Digital Power adheres to customer-centric values and continuously creates value for customers. We put customers first, focus on

their needs, and strive to help them succeed. We succeed only when our customers succeed. Second, we innovate based on customer needs, stay open-minded, and continually create value for customers. And last but not least, we promote cooperation across the value chain, grow together with partners, develop a healthy and harmonious business ecosystem, and achieve success for all.

Huawei has invested 20% of its revenue in R&D in 2023. Over three decades of dedicated R&D efforts, we have accumulated end-to-end technical experience and successful practices in the data center industry. From the perspective of the entire data center, Huawei provides a full-stack data center solution, covering the power system, cooling system, and management system at L1, servers, storage devices, and network devices at L2, and cloud platform at L3. based on extensive exploration and long-term practice, Huawei integrates digital and power electronics technologies to build green, simple, smart, and reliable data center facilities for the future to power the digital era forward.





DATA CENTRE ICT SYSTEMS VENDOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



METCLOUD is a multi-award-winning provider of Private and Hybrid Cloud, Cybersecurity, and Managed Support Services. Our platform harnesses sophisticated cyber defence, surveillance, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) technologies to deliver unparalleled service and protection.

In today's modern economy, data drives competitive advantage. Businesses need to move with speed and agility to build new capabilities and bring products and services to market faster. To succeed, they require advanced cloud computing technology, AI/ML, and data analytics to derive the insights that power innovation and revenue growth. METCLOUD is designed to meet these needs, offering a comprehensive suite of services that ensure your business can thrive in a rapidly changing environment.

Our cloud solutions provide the flexibility and scalability necessary for businesses to adapt and grow. Whether you need a private cloud, a hybrid setup, or a bespoke solution tailored to your unique requirements, METCLOUD has you covered. Our expertise in cloud computing ensures that your data is always accessible, secure, and optimised

for performance. Cybersecurity is at the heart of what we do. As cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, it's crucial to have a robust defence in place.

METCLOUD employs state-of-the-art cyber defence mechanisms and continuous surveillance to protect your data and systems. Our AI and ML technologies enhance these capabilities by identifying and responding to threats in real time, ensuring that your business is always one step ahead of potential risks. In addition to our cloud and cybersecurity services, METCLOUD offers comprehensive managed support to keep your operations running smoothly. Our team of experts is available around the clock to provide assistance, ensuring that any issues are resolved quickly and efficiently. This proactive approach minimises downtime and maximises productivity, allowing you to focus on your core business activities.

Digital operational resilience is imperative to ensure uninterrupted services. METCLOUD has been architected to provide not only high performance but also business continuity, disaster recovery, and comprehensive cybersecurity. Our solutions are designed to withstand disruptions and keep your business running, no matter what challenges you face.

Furthermore, METCLOUD's platform integrates seamlessly with your existing IT infrastructure, enabling smooth transitions and minimal disruption. Our scalable solutions grow with your business, adapting to changing needs and ensuring that you always have the resources you need to succeed. In summary, METCLOUD is your partner in navigating the complexities of today's digital landscape. Our advanced cloud computing, AI/ML, data analytics, and cybersecurity solutions empower your business to innovate and grow while ensuring resilience and security. Trust METCLOUD to provide the expertise and technology you need to stay competitive and achieve your business goals.





OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABILITY AND EFFICIENCY AWARD



Centiel supporting a sustainable future

PASSIONATE about innovation, quality and sustainability, Centiel's team design, manufacture and deliver industry-leading critical power protection solutions. The individual members of the team developed and brought to market the first three-phase transformerless UPS and the first, second, third and fourth generations of true modular, hot-swappable UPS. Centiel's class leading CumulusPower™ now protects critical power loads in locations across the world including throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and South America.

Centiel is all about quality, innovation and efficiency and this year the Centiel team turned its attention to helping data centres achieve net-zero targets. CumulusPower™, Centiel's three-phase modular uninterruptible power supply offers over 97% efficiency combined with "9-nines (99.9999999%) availability or uptime.

Following four years' development, in 2023, Centiel launched StratusPower™ to provide complete peace of mind in relation to power availability while helping data centres to achieve net-zero targets. Uniquely, StratusPower™ has a 30 year design life and so will last as long as the data centre. Furthermore, StratusPower™ is almost 100% recyclable.

Centiel's industry leading UPS product innovation is backed by its sales team, who are all engineers and UPS solutions experts and are not required to "sell" UPS. They are required to establish long term relationships with clients and consultants by offering their wealth of experience and expertise. They must take time to understand the challenges faced by the



client and always provide the best advice in relation to solutions.

If, for example, the best solution is "don't change the current UPS" then this is the advice given. Centiel wants its customers to be able to pick up the phone and discuss the best options available for them now and in the future, knowing they will always receive excellent advice and recommendations based on best practice.

Centiel's innovative UPS and team of trusted advisors help data centres maximise efficiency, uptime and adopt a best practice approach to sustainability while reducing total cost of ownership at the same time.

In 2023, Centiel was confirmed as the recipient of the Frost & Sullivan Technology Innovation Leadership Award in the global UPS industry.



CUSTOMER-CENTRIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD



ONE OF Green Mountain's core values is to put the customer in focus. Above all, customer satisfaction is the most important goal of our business. We have delivered colocation data center services with 100% uptime since day one. Furthermore, we are very transparent about the quality of our services to our customers. In other words, trust is fundamental to our business.



But how do we know that we deliver excellent service? We perform an annual customer satisfaction survey. On a 6-point scale, we have received an average score of 5.7 on overall satisfaction with partnership the last 5 years. The client relationships are handled by our service management team lead by Runar Espeland. The team consists of six people and they have very clear opinions on which factors contribute strongly to the high satisfaction score:

- Solid support systems and procedures
- A dedicated contact person for each client
- A flat organizational structure and delegated authority
- Transparency and pro-active communication
- Professional pride
- The Green Mountain company values

Together, these factors contribute to the high satisfaction score we received from our clients.



EXCELLENCE IN DATA CENTRE SERVICES AWARD



CRITICAL FACILITIES SOLUTIONS LTD (CFS), is a specialist, multiskilled Data Centre solutions and services provider. Founded in 2018, CFS is ISO 9001 & 45001 accredited for the delivery of solutions and services including Data Centre fit-out, raised access flooring, passive fire protection and ISO standard level technical cleaning. CFS expanded into Europe in 2021 with a wholly owned subsidiary set up in The Netherlands to facilitate service delivery into the EU and also have a sister company, trading under the same name, in the USA for 25 years.

CFS is equally comfortable delivering through our end customers preferred outsource partner or engaging directly as a preferred supplier. CFS believe education, standardisation and communication are key to achieving that goal and have dedicated time and resources to industry bodies such as the Data Centre Alliance (DCA). The managing director is the Chair of the Data Centre Anti-Contamination specialist interest group of the DCA.

In addition, CFS and the DCA SIG worked together with one of the world's leading insurance companies to create a bespoke insurance package that recognised and rewarded Data Centres that demonstrated best practice with a specific focus on contamination control in the white space. The SIG visited and assessed four data centres in the UK which varied in size, design, and location. In all cases the broker and underwriters provided cost savings varying from tens to hundreds of thousand pounds. In each case the savings were more than adequate to cover the costs of the audits, accreditations, and all other requirements to quality for the reduction in premiums.

The proposition had market-leading cleaning standards, provided by specialist companies, built into it. The insurance underwriting had been customised to take this into account, as one of the key differentiators, thus raising the profile and ultimately the importance of cleanliness in

data centre environment. In 2019, CFS and the SIG introduced a 'risk register' into the Anti-Contamination Guide. This new section of the report listed out in detail all the high-risk contamination elements that could impact operational activities within the data centre, and a weighted percentage score was introduced as a representation of what could happen if contamination is not managed correctly. The risk register is under constant review and updated yearly by the group.

CFS delivers all our UK solutions and services from our depots in Chesterfield, Luton and Witham via directly employed, multiskilled, security cleared technicians who have all undergone extensive task specific training and are qualified in their respective field/s, delivery in Europe is widespread and is driven from our Netherlands BV hub.

The delivery team is underpinned by a senior management team who each have over 25 years of Data Centre specific first-hand, and hands on, experience. All solutions are bespoke, and take a consultative approach to backward engineering solutions as an 'output' specification with the aim being to give the client what they need.





OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD



SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC'S diversity, equity, inclusion and well-being ambition is to be the most inclusive and caring company in the world. We aim to achieve this by providing equitable opportunities to everyone, everywhere (all generations, genders, disabilities, origins and beliefs) and by ensuring all employees are uniquely valued and provided with a safe environment in which to contribute their best.

In the UK, our action-driven commitment ensures a workplace thriving on inclusivity. Our UKI DEI strategy includes:

- UK Graduate & Apprenticeship Programs.
- Leadership Pulse Community.
- Women Leadership Cohort.
- DEI-Focused Education.
- UKI ERGs.
- Inclusive Recruitment Initiatives.

In the future, we're steadfast in our pursuit to further our global DEI ambitions. While we have successfully achieved one of the global goals of 30% female leaders, we are targeting 50% external female hiring and elevating female representation in front-line manager roles to 40%. Furthermore,

we recognize the immense potential in early-career talents hence, we're gearing up to double opportunities for them, positioning them as the next wave of organizational leaders.

As well as diversity and inclusion the environment and Schneider's social responsibility is a key consideration. The Schneider Sustainability Impact score for the year exceeded expectations, reaching 6.13 out of 10, and surpassing the year-end target of 6 out of 10. Schneider Electric was also recognized as a top performer by independent environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings throughout the year.

Schneider Electric solutions for electrification, digitalization, and automation continue to lower the carbon emissions of customers, with 112 million of tonnes saved and avoided in 2023 alone. Great strides have also been made in transforming Schneider Electric's supply chain. Carbon emissions from Schneider Electric's top 1,000 suppliers have fallen by 27% — significant progress compared to the 10% reduction achieved in 2022 — and 21% of the company's most strategic supply chain partners have met Schneider Electric's decent work standards.

Efforts across the company to act responsibly with resources mean 63% of Schneider Electric's product packaging is now free of single-use plastic and made of recycled cardboard. The company's long-standing commitment to close the energy access gap has also advanced at pace, with 46.5 million people now accessing clean and reliable electricity thanks to Schneider Electric initiatives around the world, and more than 578,000 people learning new skills to address the future energy needs of their communities.

All of these achievements feed into the company's short and long-term pay incentive plans, underlining the company's commitment to diversity, equality and social responsibility.





OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SKILLS AND TRAINING AWARD



Building futures: CBRE's pioneering approach to skills and training

AT CBRE, our people are the most important element of our business. We pride ourselves on offering the best skills, training, and development programs to our staff. It starts with recruiting the best people and offering them industry-leading training programs. We ensure professional development through coaching and offer significant career progression opportunities and rewards.

Our team comprises over 4000 Data Centre Experts, and we take immense pride in providing them with double the industry average for training and development. This commitment results in the most highly qualified team, which directly contributes to our impressive retention rate of 96%.

To ensure we have the leading experts in the data centre industry, our bespoke DCS Shield training program not only focuses on training our existing team but also facilitates the transition of engineering staff from other critical industries such as healthcare, pharma, life sciences, and financial services. This is particularly crucial as it helps alleviate the shortage of skilled data centre engineers by nurturing talent from related fields.

DCS Shield Training:

Our DCS Shield program is an integrated initiative encompassing Recruitment, Training, Development, and rewards.

About CBRE, Data Center Solutions:

CBRE Data Center Solutions is a specialist business group within CBRE that helps customers reduce risk and efficiently manage their data centre

facilities. Through technology, expert people, best in class processes, training, and global scale, we lead the market in our ability to deliver optimal facilities performance for our customers data centres.

Our customers benefit from the experience and best practice we have developed through operating FM in over 900 data centres across 46 countries. We provide a full range of data centre lifecycle services, from extensive maintenance and project capabilities, to energy optimization and analytic insights.

CBRE DCS helps clients protect their brand and unlock maximum value from their data centre assets.





DATA CENTRE INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION OF THE YEAR AWARD



Andy Davis

Andy has worked tirelessly to publicize this amazing industry, sending out a weekly newsletter which now has over 18,000 subscribers, hosting the Inside Data Centre podcast with weekly episodes interviewing a range of industry people from apprentices to veterans of the DC world. All of this he has done with no intention of reward or monetary gain, rather to publicize the industry and the people/pathways into it.

The Data Centre Club was brought into being to be a knowledge base and exchange for all things in data centres, as there was nothing comparable in existence. Others have some along later in imitation of what he has been doing, none approach this with the same selfless attitude and dedication. The link on his LinkedIn profile 'visit my website' take you to not his recruitment company but to the Data Centre Club page.

His weekly newsletter contains a roundup of data centre activity globally and is publicized within a variety of organisations as the go-to place for industry information. All of this is hyperlinked to the related news pages.

Andy also carries out STEM activities with local schools and works with the Rising Stars programme. He understands only too well the need for new talent to be brought into the industry. Looking at the wider implications of mental health he regularly advocates on this issue and has done podcasts on this subject, which is never easy. To that end he brought in a 4-day working week for his own company to demonstrate he practices what he preaches.



Truly one of the most modest and unsung heroes of our industry and he will be incredibly embarrassed by this nomination as this has never been his aim, however, such great work needs to be called out and recognised.

He is probably one of the most approachable and knowledgeable people I have come across in the industry. He has dispelled the myths that recruiters are a necessary evil, but will truly partner with you. A most helpful partner who works on the recruitment side of the industry. However, in all of his activities around the Newsletter, Podcast and Data Centre Club he never showcases his recruitment company or uses his activities to gain business. This is truly laudable and a credit to a hardworking and very nice human being. A most worthy candidate for a massive contribution to industry.

➤ Joe Wilson
– Operations
Director at
DataX Connect
collected
the award on
Andy's behalf



DCS 2024 Data Centre ICT Storage Innovation of the Year: Open-E JovianDSS Up30

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RISING STAR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Laura Allwood

LAURA is currently in the fifth year of her Project Management Apprenticeship with Arcadis, this is the final year of her Construction Management degree where she is on track to achieve a First Class Honours. Having been recently promoted to Assistant Project Manager Laura has worked with some major Hyperscale clients where her role included assisting with the project management of the early design phases on behalf of the client and managing the general site welfare facilities. Since this project she has gone on to work on smaller Enterprise Data Centre Construction Projects where she has taken on more responsibility when supporting senior colleagues. Feedback from those she has worked with shows how much her work adds value projects and they appreciate her fresh perspective to the industry bringing in new ideas to help make certain processes smoother.

During her time with Arcadis Laura has been fortunate to have been selected to undertake both Arcadis' digital exploration course (Expedition DNA) and the Empowering Women in Arcadis. Both of these opportunities have given Laura several new skills that have helped develop her confidence as a young project manager and allow her to connect with many people across the country and globally

within Arcadis. These opportunities have helped Laura to start her Line Management career giving her essential skills to allow a new apprentice to thrive and benefit from the knowledge of her journey as a young Project Manager working within the Data Centre industry.

All this experience will aid with Laura's next big career aspiration of gaining her professional chartership with the RICS.

Since joining the data centre industry Laura has shown her passion for the industry helping to support the employer brand. During this time, she has taken part in 5 podcasts which include Arcadis at MIPIM - Demystifying the DC's, Womanthology - Women in Technology and Inside Data Centre Podcast - It's time to break the stereotypes, Jambo Datacenter Podcast - Meet Laura Allwood, young emerging talent of the Datacentre Industry and DCD Talks - Women in Data Centres. Through these podcasts she has been able to share her experiences of being a young woman working within the construction of data centres, speaking about both the opportunities and challenges she has experienced hoping to raise awareness and make the industry as attractive as possible to new talent.

During 2023 through the support of the Rising Stars Programme and the mentorship of a key figure in the data industry. Laura has had the opportunity to speak on 4 different panels at industry events again sharing her experiences as a young professional to a different audience. The aim of these talks was to reach out to those already in the industry to show ways they can attract, retain and support new talent showing her perspective as someone new in to the industry. Hoping to kickstart the need for a change in mindset and encourage new ideas rather than more traditional approaches that have been used in the past. As the industry continues to develop and grow it is vital that there is sufficient and knowledgeable talent ready to continue the growth of the industry.



EDGE DATACENTER PROJECT OF THE YEAR: SMART TEXTILE TRANSITION 5.0

SMS Engineering has designed and developed a smart IOT EDGE for SMART TEXTILE TRANSITION 5.0 to support Digital Transformation, Environment, and People of a major Fashion Brand. This investment has been made with the aim of integrating new technologies into their production, including Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing and analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity platform, backup and energy efficiency sustainability across the entire IT network. Thanks to this important Edge project, the client company is now able to manage and optimize all aspects of the production processes from design to production and supply chain for the new factory 5.0.



The new IOT EDGE for TRANSITION 5.0 allows real-time data processing and insights to make smarter and faster decisions about their business with the highest level of security and sustainability for energy consumption. This smart EDGE infrastructure increases the efficiency and profitability of the entire production activity. With the aim of ensuring maximum resilience, local management in total data security, SMS Engineering has implemented a LAN and WAN Fault Tolerance Network to ensure data flow from the CLOUD to the Edge with the highest standards of Cybersecurity protection and Business Continuity available today.

Thanks to the implementation of IOT Edge SMART TEXTILE TRANSITION 5.0, treatment activity takes place near the physical location of the user processing the data or the data source, in order to reduce latency and save bandwidth.

The project was developed starting from a Risk Assessment that highlighted all vulnerabilities of all local, central and remote systems connected to the corporate network and it was immediately necessary to implement an end-to-end architecture on all levels, from physical to application, pervasively across the entire network.

*Thank you so much all who voted,
and congratulations
to our fellow DCS Awards 2024 winners!
Visit our website to learn about
SMS Engineering's projects.*

[SMS Engineering](https://www.sms-engineering.com)



OFFICIALLY the best MSP for Data Centres

Winner of the 2024 DCS Award 'Data Centre Managed Services Vendor of the Year'

You may need help with networking in a new data centre, be unhappy with your current IT support, or just want to work with the best in the industry. Whatever the challenge, OryxAlign is the solution.

With over a decade of experience in data centres, OryxAlign has a loyal team of dedicated experts. Our Cloudtango 5-star score is a testament to our unwavering commitment to service excellence. Book a discovery call to explore the possibilities. After all, it's always good to review suppliers, right?



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