

# The National Data Center Strategy and Colocation

## Foundation of the Digital Future

**The German Federal Cabinet recently adopted the National Data Center Strategy. The goal: to at least double data center capacity by 2030 and to at least quadruple capacity for high-performance computing and artificial intelligence. The underlying message is clear: anyone who wants to remain competitive in the global market needs a high-performance digital infrastructure as a foundation.**

Networked production, neo-cloud computing, AI applications, digital administration—each of these developments requires computing power, storage and network connectivity on a scale that was unimaginable just a few years ago. Behind every digital service are physical data centers that must operate around the clock. According to Bitkom : data centers form the indispensable backbone of the digital infrastructure and are essential for digital sovereignty as well as for new key technologies.

Clearly, therefore, digital performance and economic competitiveness are interdependent and companies that fall behind in infrastructure risk losing value creation and business opportunities.

However, capacity in Germany is not keeping pace with demand compared to those nations which are already massively expanding their infrastructures. There is a need to catch up - as Bitkom states in its position paper: Germany must act now before it is too late to achieve renewed innovation.

Falk Weinreich, CEO of the colocation data center Portus Data Centers, agrees: *"The German government's new data center strategy is bold and an important step towards a competitive and digitally sovereign Europe. Portus Data Centers strongly supports this strategy and is committed to further investing in a secure, networked and scalable German digital infrastructure."*

## AI is changing infrastructure requirements.

GPU-based AI workloads, model training, language models and e-government solutions demand significantly higher power densities than traditional enterprise IT. Modern AI-enabled data centers achieve completely different rack densities than conventional server rooms. This has direct consequences for cooling concepts, power supply and network design.

At the same time, AI enables more efficient operation: automated cooling control and predictive maintenance reduce energy consumption and downtime. Modern data centers now achieve a PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness) value that can even be below 1.3.

## The National Data Center Strategy: Framework and Objectives

The strategy is aimed at operators, investors, equipment suppliers and the public sector. It is divided into three areas of action: The first, Energy and Sustainability, aims to make data centers an active part of the energy transition. The second, Location and Space, focuses on shorter permitting and planning procedures as well as designated priority areas. The third, Technology and Sovereignty, encompasses the development of European AI computing capacities and the support of an AI gigafactory in Germany.

Currently, it can take four to six years from the initial permit application to the commissioning of a new data center. The data center strategy addresses this with measures to accelerate the process, strengthening this framework through investment incentives and approaches for European AI computing infrastructure.

Its implementation is to begin within the next twelve months and will be reviewed annually.

## Colocation: A Future-Proof Alternative

For most companies, operating their own data center involves considerable effort: certifications, operational reliability, energy supply and specialized personnel. Colocation solves this problem: The company operates its own hardware in a professionally managed data center and rents rack space, power and connectivity without having to maintain the infrastructure itself.

### Key benefits:

**Scalability:** Capacity can be expanded quickly without initiating construction projects. IT growth remains predictable.

**Connectivity and latency:** Colocation sites have multiple carrier connections and direct access to Internet Exchange Points, minimizing latency and maximizing bandwidth.

**Security:** Certified operation according to ISO 27001 and other standards, with physical access control, redundant power supplies and 24/7 monitoring. This level of security is not easily achieved for in-house server rooms.

**Full data sovereignty:** Owning your own hardware means complete control over data and access. No shared resources, no risk of unauthorized disclosure.

**Digital sovereignty:** Providers with legal German headquarters and a European ownership structure ensure all data storage and processing is subject to European law.

**Regional proximity:** Local providers are familiar with the regulatory requirements, network infrastructure and business landscape of their location. Short response times and direct contacts are often lacking with global providers.

**Sustainability:** Colocation data centers power their facilities with renewable energy, utilize waste heat for district heating networks and employ modern cooling concepts—a measurable contribution to ESG goals.

### **Portus Data Centers: Maximum Performance, Minimal Latency**

The Portus Data Centers Group offers carrier-neutral edge colocation services at locations in Hamburg, Munich and Luxembourg. This means data processing takes place close to the point of origin, with low latency, high availability and full data sovereignty within the German and European legal framework.

All locations feature redundant power supplies, efficient cooling systems, physical access control and 24/7 monitoring. With ISO 27001 certification and additional site-specific awards the data center operator meets high standards for security, compliance and sustainability. Locally rooted yet internationally connected.

### **Conclusion**

Without high-performance computing infrastructure, there is no digital economy and no future. This is the core message of the National Data Center Strategy. The goals for 2030 are ambitious and their success depends on various factors, including accelerated approval processes, modern infrastructure and qualified specialists.

For companies realigning their IT infrastructure, local colocation data centers are a compelling option: They combine technical performance with data sovereignty, regional proximity and legal certainty within a European framework.

### **Sources**

Federal Ministry for Digital and Public Sector Innovation (BMDS): National Data Center Strategy, March 18, 2026. <https://bmds.bund.de/service/publikationen/nationale-rechenzentrumsstrategie>

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