PowerlandMap

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Data Center Electricity Cost Benchmark

Compare the delivered cost of electricity for a data center across markets before choosing where to build or lease

71
report pages

Extended edition

29 October 2026

Analysis, project evidence and practical models

Original research snapshot dated 4 or 5 October 2026.

Expanded evidence retains its own source-check dates.

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READER GUIDE

Contents and edition guide

This extended edition combines the original research chapters with additional analytical work and a separately dated public-evidence register. The snapshots are not additive.

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Original research coverage

Methodology, original country-price comparison, annual OPEX and PUE sensitivities, procurement structures, country profiles and model assumptions.

How to read the update

The opening chapters retain the evidence freeze of 4 October 2026, or 5 October for the UAE study. The expansion was assembled on 29 October. Individual records show the date on which their source was last checked. Extraction is not a new operator confirmation.

Use the expanded record when it supersedes an older baseline statement. Capacity bases and phase boundaries remain explicit. Model inputs are labelled as assumptions. The PDF bookmarks provide direct navigation through the expanded sections.

The public sample contains exactly the first four pages. The complete study includes all sections listed above.

EXECUTIVE ASSESSMENT

Executive summary

Electricity is the dominant variable OPEX for a high-utilisation data center. PowerlandMap’s current dataset contains 154 benchmarks across 62 countries with a median of EUR 105.4/MWh, but national records differ in consumption band, tax basis and source period.

Within the European comparison used here, Finland is EUR 74.8/MWh, Sweden EUR 97.0/MWh, Norway EUR 99.2/MWh, Spain EUR 132.4/MWh and France EUR 153.4/MWh. Germany is EUR 226.4/MWh, Ireland EUR 255.2/MWh and the UK comparator EUR 384/MWh.

At 20 MW IT and PUE 1.20, each EUR 10/MWh changes annual energy-only spend by approximately EUR 2.10 million. At 100 MW IT, the same EUR 10/MWh difference is about EUR 10.51 million per year. Market selection therefore has lifecycle consequences far larger than modest differences in land price.

154	62	EUR 105.4/MWh
current benchmarks	countries	dataset median

EVIDENCE FRAMEWORK

Research methodology and data architecture

Study scope. Core European markets plus selected international comparators. PowerlandMap current dataset: 154 current electricity benchmark records across 62 countries.

Database snapshot. 5,746 verified supply records across 129 countries; 4,033 live records; 1,713 pipeline records; 67,966.6 MW of sourced IT capacity. The active development pipeline contains 1,671 projects, including 551 under construction.

Canonical identity. PowerlandMap deduplicates campus parents, buildings, acquisitions and operator aliases. A competitor listing is used as a discovery signal, not copied blindly.

Source hierarchy. Primary operator/authority/utility evidence is preferred. Specialist media and directories are used to discover or corroborate records. Unknown values remain unknown.

Quality controls. Capacity basis, evidence grade, confidence, source date, construction stage and RFS provenance are stored separately.

Core field	Rule
IT MW	Only when explicitly supported or separately labelled estimate
Electrical/campus MW	Never silently treated as IT
RFS	Source date/period or labelled PLM estimate
Project status	Canonical pipeline stage
Availability	Requires commercial evidence; site total is insufficient
Source date	Retained for recency review