US Data Center Daily Briefing

January 24, 2026

KEY THEMES

- Policy moves to prevent data-centre cost shifting to ratepayers
- On-site power and behind-the-meter strategies gaining momentum
- High-density, waterless cooling deployments for AI workloads
- India transmission expansion to support future load growth
- US state-level debate: tax incentives vs renewables/grid-cost requirements
- Cyber resilience regulation expanding to data centres (UK)
- Critical infrastructure designation push for data centres (Canada)
- Hardware/networking transitions: NVMe acceleration, DCN market growth

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Global Data Centres & Digital Infrastructure Briefing (UTC 2026-01-24)

Audience: Institutional asset managers and infrastructure fund managers focused on data centres, power, and grid infrastructure.

Top news (3)

- **US policy push to stop cost-shifting from data centres to households.** A new federal proposal would require data centres to bring **on-site power** and **pay for local transmission upgrades**, rather than passing costs to ratepayers (Senator introduces bill to shift data centre energy costs).
- **High-density, waterless AI campus expansion in the US.** Edged US is adding **72 MW** in Chicago/Aurora (planned **Q2 2027**) and **24 MW** in Irving (ground **Q2 2026**) using **waterless closed-loop cooling**, targeting **~1.15 PUE** and **up to 400 kW/rack** (Edged US expands waterless, high-density AI data center campuses).
- **India grid build-out milestone with direct relevance to load growth.** India's transmission network surpassed **5,00,000 circuit km (220 kV+)** with **1,407 GVA** transformation capacity; a new **765 kV line** added **1,100 MW evacuation capacity**, with more additions planned (India's transmission network surpasses 5 lakh circuit kilometres).

Key deals and projects

United States

- **Edged US (Illinois & Texas):**
  - **Chicago/Aurora campus:** announced a **72 MW** second building, planned **Q2 2027**.
  - **Irving:24 MW** second building approved **Jan 15, 2026**; expected to break ground **Q2 2026**.
  - Technical approach: **ThermalWorks waterless, closed-loop cooling**, supporting **up to 400 kW** rack densities; portfolio design **PUE ~1.15**.
  - Delivery model: "campus-first, repeatable," with partners including **PowerSecure (Southern Company)** and parent **Endeavour** (Edged US expands waterless, high-density AI data center campuses).

India

- **Uttar Pradesh investment commitments (WEF 2026):**
  - **₹37,000 crore** total commitments, including a **₹25,000 crore MoU with Essar Group** to invest in **power, logistics, and data centres**.
  - Other commitments included **REC Ltd ₹8,000 crore** for **500 MW waste-to-energy** and additional industrial/clean energy MoUs (Uttar Pradesh secures ₹37,000 crore investments at WEF 2026).

Netherlands

- **Industrial edge AI funding (adjacent capacity driver):**
  - **Helin** raised **€10 million** growth investment led by **FORWARD.one** (plus a **loan from Rabobank**) to expand international sales and accelerate enterprise rollouts; reported **signed ARR up twelve-fold over three years** (Helin secures €10 million to scale industrial edge AI).

Power, grid and interconnection highlights

United States

- **Rising concern over retail rate impacts from large load additions (Michigan):**
  - **DTE Energy** held a public listening session on its **Integrated Resource Plan** (IRP due **end of 2026**). Discussion focused on affordability and outages tied to expected data

centre load growth; analysts cited in the piece warned that **each 1 GW data centre** could raise residential rates **5%–10%** (DTE holds Detroit listening session on IRP, data centers).

- **On-site power momentum (US market signal):**
  - A **Bloom Energy** report (survey of **152 decision-makers**) found **one-third** of hyperscalers and colocation providers plan to move power production **entirely onsite by 2030**, with onsite power demand up **22%** vs six months earlier. The report also projected **Texas** could capture **nearly 30%** of the US data centre market by **2028**, and **Georgia's share** to grow **75%** (One-third of data centers plan onsite power by 2030).
- **PPAs as a response to constrained grid access (but not a cure-all):**
  - Commentary flagged PPAs as a tool to help secure priority supply and potentially speed hookups as capacity tightens, but noted constraints including **regulatory intervention**, **physical generation limits**, and **forecasting risk**—implying **behind-the-meter generation** is likely to remain a primary strategy (PPAs help data centres navigate constrained grid power availability).

India

- **Transmission capacity expansion for future load:**
  - National network exceeded **5,00,000 circuit km** and **1,407 GVA** (220 kV+), with ongoing projects expected to add **~67,500 ckm** and **533 GVA**; recent commissioning included a **628 ckm 765 kV** line adding **1,100 MW** evacuation capacity (India's transmission network surpasses 5 lakh circuit kilometres).

Policy and regulation

United States (federal)

- **Power for the People Act (proposed):**
  - Sen. **Chris Van Hollen** introduced legislation to require data centres to supply **on-site power** and fund **local transmission upgrades**, rather than shifting costs to ratepayers.
  - Supporting context cited: a **Union of Concerned Scientists** study found **$4.3 billion** in transmission-related costs were passed to consumers in **2024** across **13 states**, and utilities expect **30%–80%** growth in electricity sales over the next decade (Senator introduces bill to shift data centre energy costs).

United States (state)

- **Colorado: incentives vs operating requirements split within Democrats:**

- **House Bill 1030:** proposes a **20-year sales and use tax exemption** for data centres tied to **$250 million** in infrastructure investment and other conditions.
- Competing proposal (Sen. **Cathy Kipp**): would require data centres to match annual energy use with **renewables**, **pay for grid upgrades**, and **report water and electricity use** (Democrats clash over Colorado data center tax and offsets).

United Kingdom

- **Cyber regulation expands coverage to data centres and suppliers:**
  - The UK's **Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill** (introduced late 2025; expected to progress through 2026) expands regulatory obligations to **managed service providers, data centres and critical suppliers**.
  - Industry view in the piece stresses continuous testing (including autonomous pentesting) amid rising state-backed/criminal threats and AI-enabled attacks (UK cyber bill drives shift to offensive security testing).

Canada

- **Push to classify data centres as Critical National Infrastructure:**
  - **Equinix** urged Canada to designate data centres as **Critical National Infrastructure** and called for coordinated permitting and grid planning, including a **national large step-load protocol**.
  - Context cited: Canada's **~84% non-emitting** electricity mix and an example of **Equinix TR5** exporting waste heat in **Markham** (Canada must treat data centres as core infrastructure).

Technology and market notes (relevant read-through)

- **Storage mix: performance shifts to NVMe, cold storage still SATA-heavy.** Analysts said NVMe (PCIe) is overtaking SATA for performance storage; **SATA III ~550 MB/s** vs **PCIe 5.0 NVMe up to 16 GB/s**. Seagate and Western Digital still ship **20–30 TB SATA** drives used for cloud cold storage (SATA fading in performance storage but persists for cold).
- **Networking architecture growth forecast:** Dell'Oro lifted its distributed cloud networking forecast to **$21bn by 2029** (implying **~30% CAGR**), describing DCN as unifying connectivity, security, and telemetry across edge/WAN/cloud layers (Distributed cloud networking market to reach $21 billion by 2029).

Two-line close

The direction of travel is clearer: large-load growth is increasingly being tied to explicit cost-allocation, reporting, and resilience obligations. Delivery models that reduce water use and accelerate power availability are becoming central differentiators for new capacity.

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