US Data Center Daily Briefing

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KEY THEMES

- Maharashtra targets global data centre leadership within three years
- Mumbai subsea cable landing stations pitched as connectivity edge
- Fairfax County 41.7-acre sale to Starwood for $166.8m
- Fairfax public hearing March 17; construction not before summer 2028

Maharashtra is trying to brute-force its way into the top tier of global data centre markets — and it's putting a three-year clock on it. In its latest push, the state government says it wants to become a global leader, leaning hard on Mumbai's connectivity advantages, power infrastructure, and a promise of smoother approvals and infrastructure support. The tone is unmistakable: this isn't "we'd like more projects"; it's a bid to be on every hyperscaler and operator's shortlist.

The Big Stories

Maharashtra aims to become global leader in data centres is a loud, time-bound political commitment: leadership "within three years," framed around rapid investment momentum, supportive policies, and rising digital demand. The state is explicitly selling Mumbai's strategic connectivity — including subsea cable landing stations — alongside "strong power infrastructure," with incentives that emphasise streamlined approvals and infrastructure support to pull in global tech firms. This matters because jurisdictions don't set a three-year leadership goal unless they believe they can convert policy into shovel-ready capacity quickly; for investors, that's a signal to watch permitting speed, grid readiness, and whether incentives actually translate into bankable sites rather than press releases.

Behind the Headlines

Environmental groups question Fairfax County land sale to developer is a reminder that, in mature U.S. markets, the friction is increasingly political and civic — even before a project is formally proposed. The issue is a proposed sale of 41.7 acres at 3721 Stonecroft Boulevard to Starwood Capital Group for $166.8 million, with critics worried it "would become a data center." Fairfax County's stated rationale is straightforward: the proceeds would fund police training and a new Criminal Justice Academy, with a public hearing scheduled for March 17; notably,

construction wouldn't start until summer 2028. That timeline alone is telling — land, local process, and community acceptance can stretch the path to capacity into multi-year territory, which changes how you underwrite schedule risk even in a market that knows data centres well.

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