

Data Center Briefing

March 15, 2026

Global

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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