

South Africa Energy Big Data Center



AI Overview

South Africa's data center sector is rapidly expanding, with energy-intensive facilities increasingly integrating renewable and alternative energy sources to meet growing demand. Major Data Center Projects Durban is set to host South Africa's largest AI data center, a 400MW facility developed in partnership with a South Korean consortium. This center alone could consume 25% of Durban's current electricity supply, highlighting the immense energy demands of modern AI infrastructure. The site, near the Amanzimtoti Cable Landing Station, will leverage the 2Africa submarine cable system, connecting Africa to Europe, the Middle East, and India. The project is estimated to cost between \$3 billion and \$10 billion in a public-private venture.

National Data Center Market South Africa is the largest data center market in Africa, with 65 operational facilities across 17 operators, running at an average utilization of 87% and growing at 20-25% annually. The country's grid is 76% coal-dependent, and electricity tariffs have increased over 9% annually over the past decade. In regions suitable for renewables, grid capacity is already constrained, prompting operators to adopt solar power purchase agreements and explore natural gas as a dispatchable, continuous energy source.

Renewable Energy Integration Leading operators like Teraco are transitioning away from fossil-fuel electricity, aiming for net-zero power by 2035. Teraco's eight data centers currently support 185MW of critical load, with rooftop solar and utility-scale solar projects planned to provide up to 50% of electricity by 2027. Partnerships with wind and solar providers, along with wheeling agreements, ensure reliable clean energy delivery across multiple campuses. Other global players, including AWS and Microsoft, are also investing in renewable energy to maintain competitiveness in Africa.

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SA's biggest data centre "monster" set to consume 25

It would be South Africa's biggest digital data centre, burning up the equivalent of a staggering 25% of the city of Durban's current electricity supply.

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