

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER OPENS DIGIPLEX'S PIONEERING DATA CENTRE

DigiPlex's latest environmentally friendly data centre in Norway, which is believed to have set a world first in data-centre funding strategies, was today opened by the country's environment minister.

Tine Sundtoft, Minister for Climate and Environment, attended an opening ceremony at the centre in Fetsund, a suburb of Oslo, the capital city. She was joined by John Harry Skoglund, Mayor of the Fet municipality. They were hosted by DigiPlex, which is Norway's largest owner and operator of data centres, and EVRY ASA, the user of the data centre, and one of the largest IT companies in Scandinavia.

Sundtoft praised the centre's outstanding environmental performance and innovative technology. She emphasised the potential for data centres in Norway, which has abundant, cheap power from renewable sources, a cool climate that makes air conditioning more efficient, and is politically and economically stable.

The Fetsund centre has a power utilisation effectiveness (PUE) ratio of just 1.1, which is a remarkably low figure for a data centre. To achieve this, it employs DigiPlex's Air to Air cooling system that uses the naturally cool Nordic climate to reduce energy consumption by about 25%. All its power comes from renewable sources, in common with DigiPlex's other data centres.

The data centre features two three-storey, air cooled buildings with a total power availability of 18 megawatts, which will be increased as additional data-centre space is built on the adjacent land. The centre also features DigiPlex's innovative De-Ox system that creates a low-oxygen atmosphere to prevent any risk of fire.

The data centre is believed to be the first and only in the world to have had its construction financed by the issue of publicly traded bonds. Rather than using equity or bank debt, DigiPlex issued floating-rate notes on the Oslo Stock Exchange. This raised Nkr500m (approximately \$84m at the time of issue). It was also the first time any European data centre company had issued a publicly traded bond for any purpose.

DigiPlex was able to use this innovative financing because of its outstanding track record, and the scale of the agreement for EVRY to use the data centre. EVRY committed to using 4,200 m² of IT space, served by 11 megawatts of power, for 21.5 years.

Also attending the opening ceremony were: Byrne Murphy, Chairman of DigiPlex; Gisle Eckhoff, CEO of DigiPlex; and Björn Ivroth, CEO of EVRY.

At the opening ceremony, Ms Sundtoft said: "Our electricity is almost 100 percent renewable. It is good for the climate to have such data centers located in the Nordics. We would like more of them as they can become the foundation for a new industry.

We can become an exporter of environmentally friendly data services. We are known as the green battery of Europe – we can become the green data center of the world.”

Byrne Murphy, Chairman of DigiPlex, said: “It was gratifying to hear the minister acknowledge all the hard work by our team in creating a data centre that has such an outstanding environmental performance. I’m also proud of the speed with which we managed to construct the project, and the way we used our track record to access finance in the bond market. It is an excellent model for future projects.”

“The Nordic climate, abundant energy from renewable sources and political stability make the region an excellent location for data centres, and they have great potential here – something that deserves wider international recognition.”