



Press Release

26 January 2011

KBC opens twin data centre near Budapest

At the end of 2007, KBC decided to build a new computer data centre near Budapest, Hungary, to manage the network infrastructure and customer data storage for KBC group companies based in its home markets in Central and Eastern Europe. The twin data centre will replace the 23 different data centres currently in use at 18 locations in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The Permit of Use is expected to be issued shortly by the Hungarian authorities. In the coming months, the centre will gradually become operational, while the existing CE data centres will be running down their activities.

KBC made this long-term investment decision (100 million EUR spread over several years) back at the end of 2007.

The twin data centre and its centralised and standardised infrastructure will have benefits for KBC, not only from an operational point of view but also in terms of efficiency. It will generate recurrent annual cost savings of 10 million EUR and create a technology boost for KBC's Central European technology infrastructure. Moreover, it will enable KBC to comply with the regulatory requirements (e.g., operational risk management) and by the supervisory authorities in a number of areas, including Disaster Recovery Planning.

The new Budapest centres will create 15 local jobs, mainly for technical maintenance. There will be no impact on staff in the former data centres at the other locations. All employees involved will continue to take care of local database management or be offered suitable job alternatives within the ICT organisation where they are currently employed.

The Budapest location was selected after a thorough preliminary study into a number of different options in various countries. The locations in KBC's home market of Hungary are best equipped to meet the relevant requirements. With a view to maximising availability, security, and operational autonomy as much as possible, it was decided to build two independent but fully identical centres about 20 kilometres apart in Törökbálint and Baracska. In Belgium, KBC operates a similar twin data centre (Mechelen and Leuven) which will remain fully operational.

The new twin data centre is constructed according to a module- and scale-based concept, leaving room for future expansion. The design complies with strict environmental and sustainability criteria, particularly in relation to energy consumption, which will make it one of the most energy-efficient centres in its market segment.

Technical data

- Each centre consists of four 500 m² modules, two of which have been fully prepared for operations. Each centre can be expanded with another two additional modules, if necessary.
- System cooling is realised to a maximum extent by means of Free cooling generating up to 40% energy savings.
- Power Utility Efficiency rate until 1.3 – among the best in the market and well below the 2.5 to 2 at the present data centres
- Internal air temperature constantly kept at 24°C and a relative humidity of 50%
- 37 km of fibre cable to connect both data centres
- 4.6 Petabytes of online storage capacity and 17 Petabytes backup storage.

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