

An IT services firm recoups up to 90% of the used energy from their new data center thanks to help from IBM GTS



Reference study GIB-Services AG



The client: GIB-Services AG

GIB-Services AG – founded in 2001 and located in Uitikon, Switzerland – is an IT support company that offers site and co-location services to its customers. Recently, GIB-Services AG has additionally started to lease out space in the new data center bunker to customers with a high demand of protection and availability.



The company's key business is to provide enterprises with a perfectly functioning IT infrastructure required in times of increasing complexity of IT where ever-increasing expertise is crucial. The portfolio of GIB-Services AG embraces a variety of products and services such as server based computing, system tuning, system audits, operational support and technical consulting.

Source: IBM Greenbook

„Our decision to collaborate with IBM was easily made given IBM's data center expertise, innovation and commitment to green technology“

Hans-Rudolf Schärer, President of the board of directors, GIB-Services AG

Highlights

- A decommissioned military bunker has been transformed into an innovative and cost effective data center.
- Today, up to 90 % of the energy consumed to run a data center results in heat. In the case of the new-built GIB-Solutions data center, this heat is now used to heat the local swimming pool of the municipality of Uitikon.
- Power of 1'000 kW results in heat of 800 kW – an amount of heat that can be used to heat 80 one-family houses for a whole year.
- As energy costs become a more and more decisive business factor, topics such as Green IT, reduced energy consumption, reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, or usage of the heat produced by a data center obtain increased relevance for daily business decisions.

Needs and challenges

GIB-Services AG had seen a recent increase in the scope of its hosting services. With existing clients requiring more capacity and with new clients lined up, the company needed to expand its IT facilities to accommodate its increased business. However, local real estate was at a premium, so the organization needed to find a cost-effective solution to help to offset the cost of its data center growth.

The organization had already spotted a potential location for its new facility - a decommissioned military bunker. At first sight a seemingly unorthodox location, this site could offer the physical security and stability needed to provide high availability IT hosting services. The transformation of this former military site into a cost-effective data center, however, was a task that GIB-Services AG could not accomplish by itself. The organization began to look for a technology partner that could help implementing the redesign and ideally provide a solution that would help to reduce costs.

The solution

Working together with GIB-Services AG and the city of Uitikon, Switzerland, IBM Global Technology Services deployed a unique solution. Not only did the IBM team offer a plan to convert the site into a security-rich data center, but also did the IBM team work together with the client in order to design an environmentally friendly facility.

The new data center is expected to generate around 2,800MWh of heat energy per year, and this energy is being captured and channelled in order to heat the public swimming pool of Uitikon.

As a part of a 15-month site and facilities contract the IBM Global Technology Services team conducted an initial feasibility study regarding the bunker and assessing its viability as a data center. The IBM team then scoped the project and managed the totally 24 contracted firms involved to deploy the overall solution. The new facility, completed in early 2008, spans 360m² and contains increased security features that are keeping the client's hosted data safe. After the data center had been finished, the IBM Global Technology Services team was involved in the process of implementing the infrastructure needed to transfer the heat energy from the site to the local swimming pool. GIB-Services AG and the residents of Uitikon are both pleased with this new IBM solution. The client expects to be able to reuse up to 90% of the electrical power consumed by the data center as heat energy. And by reselling this energy to the town of Uitikon, GIB-Services AG can lower the costs of its new IT facility while reducing its negative impact on the environment. In fact, GIB-Services AG estimates that the amount of energy being saved through this IBM solution will be equal to approximately 130 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, the IBM solution offers improved security capabilities to protect customer data and it helps the organization's hosting service to thrive.

The advantages of Site and Facilities Design and Construction

- An optimally disposable and reliable data center infrastructure is the foundation of secure and highly available IT operations
- Limits downtime and extends business continuity and, doing this, mitigates operational risk
- Increases return on investment (ROI) in IT infrastructure, hardware and software and reduces costs
- IBM offers an integrated solution from one source: analysis, planning, design, construction and initial operations of the data center
- Capture of customer-specific requirements, integral planning, and IBM taking the project overall responsibility by offering at a fixed price

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