Who Actually Has the Greenest Datacentre of Them All?

Written by Marco Attard
04 March 2016

Move over Google and Facebook, a German startup claims the crown of greenest datacentre operator-- Cloud&Heat says its datacentre in Dresden uses the least energy, undercutting Google records by over 40%.

"The latest results measured in our data center at Wallotstraße in Dresden undercut the energy values of the most modern and efficient server facilities significantly. Also, those of Google and Facebook," the company says. "We have achieved a sensational Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) of 1.01 and Energy Reuse Effectiveness (ERE) of 0.62, with regard to a year. This is the lowest measured value worldwide. We have not reached this value in cool Scandinavia or Alaska but in our datacentre in Dresden, Germany, with a current expansion stage of 60%."

PUE describes the ratio between total energy used, total energy consumed and energy use of IT hardware (such as servers and switches). The lower the PUE, less energy is "lost" by processes such as cooling and lighting. Meanwhile ERE includes the reuse of energy, and is provides evaluation of how much carbon dioxide is produced.

Cloud&Heat says it beats Google's PUE by around 4% and ERE by 42%-- numbers representing energy savings in "the double-digit million" for a company the size of the search giant.

How does the German company manage such energy savings, though? Details are scant, but Cloud&Heat says it only uses water cooling, eliminating any other cooling systems. In addition the air is cooled through the datacentre sitting of top of an undergrood car park, with cooling taking place all year round.

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The curious wanting to check out Cloud&Heat's server hardware will be able to do so later this March at CeBIT 2016.

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