Aruba Kicks Off Milan Datacentre

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Aruba opens the first phase of what it claims will be the largest datacentre campus in Italy-- the IT3 Global Cloud Data Centre located in Ponte San Pietro, around 40km outside of Milan.

The site covers 210000 square-metres of indoor space, but has buildings in need of either revamping or destruction. Its first facility, dubbed DC-A, is already operational and can support 4MW of equipment, of which 3MW are currently in use. At full capacity, it can be built out to hold 15MW, while the campus in full has the potential to carry loads up to 90MW.

IT3 is the 3rd for Aruba, and the 7th in total. The company says it will offer dedicated server space for large companies, public administrators, IT operators, SMEs, system integrators and telcos, as well as cloud infrastructure solutions of the disaster recover, business continuity, routing and hardware supply variety. Non-European companies and providers will also be able to host data locally, in compliance with GDPR regulations.

Interestingly, the site runs on renewable energy-- one reason the Ponte San Pietro location was chosen is its adjacency to the Brembo river. This allows it to have an own hydroelectric plant, and Aruba also installed solar panels on the roof. The result is on-site renewable power generation of 5MW, divided between 1.5MW from the plant and 3.5MW of photovoltaic energy. Meanwhile, cooling comes from a geothermal system drawing water from an on-site well.

Aruba expects to officially open the IT3 facility on 5 October 2017. It also plans to open a datacentre in Poland in the near future.

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