

How to establish a data center in Norway

Essential information about regulatory processes, time to market and contact information to relevant authorities



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The structure and content of the guide

The Norwegian government wants even more actors to choose Norway as the location for their data center and are committed to making the process of establishing a data center in Norway as smooth as possible. Norway offers renewable energy and an ultra-low carbon footprint at a low cost, in combination with an excellent infrastructure and connectivity, a highly competent workforce, and experience within power-intensive industries.

This brochure will provide guidance on how to set up a data center in Norway – whether you want to set up data center as a service, build-to-suit, ready-to-build, or even build your own data center. The guide is meant to be easy to read with references to more detailed resources when needed.



Foto: Utaalen-Tomas Rasmus Saug

Powered by Nature: The world's first data center strategy

The world's first national strategy on data centers was published by the Norwegian government in 2018. An updated version will be launched August 2021, with the vision to make Norway an even more attractive location for data centers.



Several actions have been taken since the first Norwegian data center strategy was launched. The government has removed property taxes on machinery and accessories in works and installations and facilitated additional fiber optic cables to other countries. In addition, new and efficient regulations for cable installations on public infrastructure, including roads, bridges and tunnels (cabling regulations) has been implemented. The new regulations will make business conditions more predictable for those establishing cable infrastructure.

With the updated strategy the government wants to take more actions to further improve business conditions and the attractiveness of Norway for data centers.

In June 2021 the Norwegian government was awarded the Inward Investment Initiatives for Data Centers award which recognizes the development and the investment of making a nation attractive for data center investments.



Could Norway be your next data center location?

Leading position in sustainable energy production and a professional data center market

Continuing decades of being a large energy producer, Norway provides renewable energy built on a solid business ecosystem. Norway has the highest share of renewable energy sources in Europe, with the lowest emissions¹. Abundant access to hydropower resources, with stable electrical supply and high reliability, providing optimal energy efficiency, makes Norway an excellent location for data centers.

The Norwegian data center market is well-established with several actors that are experienced in building, operating, and maintaining data centers.

For those wanting to build a new data center, there are a large number of contractors who have experience with large and complex construction processes from adjacent sectors.

Norwegian businesses are at the frontier of implementing ESG factors in the whole value chain of operations in most sectors. Within the data center industry R&D efforts are made to improve efficiency and energy conservation, where key elements are innovative cooling techniques and waste heat recovery.



¹ According to the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)