Joint press release

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Press release by Siemens Energy and Eaton

Eaton and Siemens Energy join forces to provide power and technology to accelerate the delivery of new data center capacity

- Integrated modular data center construction will bring capacity online at speed to meet growing global demand for AI and cloud computing
- Standardized on-site power generation is key to accelerate the development of new data centers

Intelligent power management company Eaton, and Siemens Energy, one of the world's leading energy technology companies, have announced a fast-track approach to building data centers with integrated onsite power. They will address urgent market needs by offering reliable grid-independent energy supplies and standardized modular systems to facilitate swift data center construction and deployment.

The collaboration will enable simultaneous construction of data centers and associated on-site power generation with grid connection and the integration of renewables to meet regional regulatory requirements, if required. This will provide data center owners and developers with choices they don't have at present to enable them to build and run new data centers.

Siemens Energy's modular and scalable power plant concept is tailored to the specific needs of data center operators. The standard configuration generates 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity featuring highly efficient SGT-800 gas turbines, redundancy and additional battery storage systems, ensuring the highest reliability. Based on its modular approach, the size of the plant can be scaled up and down. In the future, it can also operate in a carbon-neutral manner, provided hydrogen is available and part of the data center's sustainability strategy. The Siemens Energy concept also includes an optional emission-free clean air grid connection to be installed either during construction or as a retrofit. This feature would enable data centers to provide grid services.

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Eaton will provide customers with electrical equipment such as medium voltage switchgear, low voltage switchgear, UPS, busways, structural support, racks and containment systems, engineering services and the software offerings needed to protect and enable IT loads from the medium-voltage grid to the chip and help accelerate building and commissioning data centers with skidded and modular designs.

Cyrille Brisson, Global Segment Leader, Data Centers, Eaton, said: "Our approach of letting customers pick the right balance of energy sources is very flexible and construction to start-up time is swift with options to reduce emissions in both the short and long term. Crucially, our approach offers data center owners and developers the opportunity to build capacity and bring it online fast in any location where they have land available that is close to gas, water and fiber."

Andreas Pistauer, Global Head of Sales at Siemens Energy's Gas Services Business Area, said: "We offer hyperscalers, co-locators and investors a unique package, enabling them to reduce the time-to-market by up to two years in many places which leads to significant revenue gains. Our power plant design is built with redundancy, eliminating the need for backup diesel generators, and reducing CO_2 emissions by about 50 percent."

Meeting the huge electricity demand of data centers is a major challenge

Global power demand is growing at a rapid pace due to rising living standards, the increasing electrification of industry, mobility, and heating, and the development of digital technologies. Data centers are an especially dynamic driver of the growing demand for electricity.

Tremendous amounts of energy are required to power the inexorable rise of artificial intelligence. A single query to an AI model like ChatGPT consumes much more electricity than a conventional Google search. According to forecasts, the power consumption of data centers could more than double to around 945 terawatt-hours by 2030. That amount is equivalent to the total power consumption of Japan today.

On top of that, data centers are often built on large-area sites with no power grid infrastructure. To supply these sites with the required electricity, therefore, it will be necessary to extend the power grid in addition to increasing power generation. However, expanding the power grid often takes longer than building the data centers themselves. That is a huge challenge for the operators of data centers, who require quick solutions to deal with it. That is why they are increasingly investing in their own independent and reliable energy supply systems.

This is where Siemens Energy and partners like Eaton come in. They develop modular, scalable solutions that make it possible to supply electricity to data centers quickly, efficiently, and if necessary, independently of existing power grids.

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