

Press Release

Groundbreaking ceremony for first sustainable YEXIO data center at Heiligenhaus Innovation Park

Today, on March 12, 2024, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the YEXIO data center at Heiligenhaus Innovation Park. This marks a milestone for the first project of the partnership between HOCHTIEF and infrastructure investor Palladio Partners, from which a network of decentral data centers in Germany is planned to be created. The shared aim is to bring the sustainability of data centers to a new level.

Michael Beck, Mayor of the City of Heiligenhaus: “The YEXIO data center at the Innovation Park is an important pillar for the further development of this business location. It shows our engagement for environmental protection and technological progress. The sustainable data center creates synergies, promotes innovation and reinforces our position as an attractive business location, especially for companies that prefer computing power and data storage close to their headquarters.”

Building completion and commissioning of the YEXIO data center on an approximately 9,000-square-meter plot in Heiligenhaus is slated for Q2 2025. The following features, among others, provide for energy efficiency and sustainability of the data center:

- Thanks to innovative **direct water cooling**, a better waste heat level compared to air-cooled data centers can be achieved, thus providing for the efficient further use of energy.
- The use of **wood** for the structure and the facade can save and store CO₂.
- The **green facade** promotes biodiversity.

Martina Steffen, Member of the Executive Board of HOCHTIEF: “In our corporate strategy, sustainability plays a central role and is an integral element of the HOCHTIEF value system. This is reflected, among others, in our Sustainability Plan 2025. We are also continuously striving to further strengthen our position in growth markets, as for example in the field of data centers.

Accordingly, HOCHTIEF Data Center Partner GmbH with its sustainable YEXIO data centers is a significant component of our corporate strategy.”

In Germany in particular, the YEXIO data centers with their focus on sustainability address local requirements on computing power, so-called edge computing. Originating in Germany, they also take into account many companies’ need to handle their sensitive data locally. Due to the innovative cooling, the data center can also deliver higher performance, benefiting the trend towards applications with AI, for example. All this can be seen against the background of a continuous growth trend in the data center market: Between 2010 and 2022, Germany saw capacity growth of more than 90%, in relation to IT connection capacity. The expected strong growth is especially promising in the field of edge data centers: In 2022, the global market was valued at USD 10 billion, with a forecast annual growth of 23% until 2028. These developments are driven by various factors, including the increasing proliferation of IoT devices, the introduction of 5G networks, and the growing need for real-time data processing for applications such as smart cities.

Bernd Kreuter, Managing Partner at Palladio Partners: “In our investments, we not only focus on business potential, but also on the project’s sustainability while always taking into consideration its life cycle. The joint project with HOCHTIEF meets all these criteria. We are now looking forward to the start of construction of the first YEXIO data center.”

HOCHTIEF is an engineering-led global infrastructure solutions provider with leading positions in North America, Australia and Europe and a rapidly expanding presence in high-tech, energy transition and sustainable infrastructure markets. With around 41,500 employees and a sales volume of EUR 27.8 billion in 2023, HOCHTIEF is the leading construction management and green building company in the U.S. (through Turner), the largest contractor in the Australian infrastructure services market (CIMIC), a key player in U.S. transportation infrastructure (Flatiron) and a renowned civil engineering and building construction company in Europe. The Group’s PPP and infrastructure development activity is complemented by its 20% stake in the leading international toll road concessions operator Abertis. HOCHTIEF’s strong competitive position is underpinned by the Group’s engineering know-how, innovative digital systems and supply chain & logistics solutions. Thanks to its long-standing commitment to sustainability, HOCHTIEF, where green projects account for almost 50% of Group sales, has been listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices since 2006 and is committed to delivering on its ESG agenda including a net-zero target for 2045. Further information is available at www.hochtief.com

Palladio Partners is a specialist in global real assets, in particular infrastructure investments, for German institutional investors. The owner-managed investment boutique with offices and subsidiaries in Frankfurt and Luxembourg was founded in 2012, employs more than 70 staff today, and manages approx. EUR 9 billion (including advisory mandates). Palladio Partners advises German institutional investors, especially from the pension sector, in the implementation of their individual investment strategy, even in cases of high complexity, and offers them access to attractive global investment opportunities. The company is sustainably committed to German infrastructure – via investments and active collaboration in associations such as “IDI - Initiative deutsche Infrastruktur e.V.” (German infrastructure initiative). Palladio Partners is a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI). For further information please visit www.palladio-partners.com

The **City of Heiligenhaus**, with its almost 28,000 inhabitants, is located between the Ruhr conurbation (city limits of Essen) and the federal state capital Düsseldorf, in the attractive Niederberg region. The city pursues an ambitious agenda in the field of climate protection and digitalization/smart city. The Heiligenhaus Innovation Park (a project of the fully owned subsidiary, Stadt- und Bodenentwicklungsgesellschaft Heiligenhaus mbH) is a large-scale business park in a prime location, which is being developed in line with sustainability standards. The construction of the YEXIO data center is an important milestone in the development of the innovative business park as it results in a variety of synergies—also with regard to the construction areas for further business settlements and uses at the location. Further information is available at: www.heiligenhaus.de; www.innovationspark-heiligenhaus.de

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