## DATA CENTER TRENDS



## It's All About Energy, Environment, Speed, Simplicity



## 1. More Regulation

Data center operators are increasing their focus on efficiency and sustainability even as compute-hungry applications and technologies demand more energy. A large data center can consume enough electricity annually to power every home in Aruba<sup>1</sup> and enough water daily to fill a 10-foot-deep swimming pool the size of a professional soccer field<sup>2</sup>. That kind of resource consumption will lead to increased scrutiny in 2023.

### Technologies to watch:

High-efficiency UPS systems, lithium-ion batteries, water-free cooling.

## **2.** Data Centers Shop off the Rack

A 2022 Omdia study found 99% of enterprise data center operators plan to use prefabricated modular designs in their facilities<sup>3</sup>. Vertiv predicts hyperscalers will join the party in greater numbers in the new year as the prefabricated modular approach becomes the dominant design method across the data center ecosystem.

#### Technologies to watch:

Integrated rack, row, aisle and room solutions; power, cooling and IT modules and skids.





### **3.** Diesel Generators See Real Competition

On average, diesel generators used for backup power emit about 0.79 metric tons of carbon dioxide for every megawatt-hour of energy produced — more than twice as much as the United States electricity grid<sup>4</sup>. As data center operators ramp up their efforts to shrink their carbon footprint in 2023 and beyond, their crosshairs will settle on those generators.

#### Technologies to watch:

Hydrogen fuel cells, lithium-ion batteries and emerging battery technologies.

# **4.** Higher Densities Alter Thermal Strategies

More than a third of data center operators say their rack densities have rapidly increased in the past three years<sup>5</sup> and 1 out of every 5 large data centers house racks of at least 40 kilowatts. This reflects increasing confidence in liquid-cooled server technologies and portends more widespread deployment of liquid-cooled high-density racks in the coming year.

### Technologies to watch:

Rear-door heat exchangers, direct-to-chip liquid cooling, immersion cooling, intelligent controls.





# **5.** 5G Meets the Metaverse at the Edge

The number of 5G subscribers will increase to 5.8 billion by  $2027^6$  — more than 8 times greater than it is today. In 2023, expect those ultra-dense networks to support expanding metaverse applications.

#### Technologies to watch:

Integrated rack, row, aisle, and room modules; intelligent, high-efficiency UPS systems with lithium-ion batteries; air and liquid cooling solutions for deployments of varying density; intelligent monitoring and management systems enabling remote management, control, and service; DC power systems and controls.



<sup>1</sup>aflhyperscale.com/articles/now-thats-interesting/what-makes-hyperscale-hyperscale/

<sup>2</sup> nbcnews.com/tech/internet/drought-stricken-communities-push-back-against-data-centers-n1271344

<sup>3</sup>Omdia

<sup>4</sup> feace.com/single-post/the-carbon-footprint-of-diesel-generators#:~:text=Comparing%20GHG%20Emissions%20of%20Diesel,Megawatt%2Dhour%20of%20energy%20produced

<sup>5</sup> uptimeinstitute.com/uptime\_assets/6768eca6a75d792c8eeede827d76de0d0380dee6b5ced20fde45787dd3688bfe-2022-data-center-industry-survey-en.pdf

<sup>6</sup> omdia.tech.informa.com/OM017728/Mobile-Subscription-and-Revenue-Forecast