



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and
Technology
Future Networks
Cloud and Software



Brussels, 3 February 2023

Subject: Synergies between Data Centres and Energy Systems

To Whom It May Concern,

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT) has commissioned a study on “**optimising synergies between data centres and energy systems**”.

The study has been contracted to a **consortium** led by **VVA brussels**, in collaboration with **AIT, Borderstep, RP Legal & Tax** and **Dr. Catherine Banet**. We are writing to officially inform you of this study, which will be running until **June 2024**.

The ultimate goal of the study is to **provide recommendations and actionable advice** to address identified **drivers** and **barriers** and **limiting synergies** between **data centres** and the **energy grid**.

The study aims to learn more about how **data centres** can be more effectively **integrated** into **energy networks** to achieve the **Green Deal** and **Digital Decade goals** of having highly **energy-efficient** and **climate-neutral data centres by 2030**. The study focuses on how local energy systems can use the **waste heat** and **water** generated by data centre operations.

The **first objective** of the study is to design and carry out a **mapping** and to provide **technological research and assessment of new approaches** to energy efficiency of data centres and their integration into general energy and water systems.

The **second objective** is to carry out a **mapping of drivers, obstacles and potential opportunities** for the successful integration of data centres into the general energy systems.

The **third objective** of the study is to **compare** how other **energy and emission-intensive sectors** (i.e. construction, manufacturing, transport, waste and agriculture) address the issue of integrating data centres in the **energy and water systems grids** in order to evaluate whether there are useful lessons to be learnt for data centres.

The **fourth and fifth objectives** of the study involve the identification of potential **case studies** and **policy recommendations**.

The study will require the contractor to approach **stakeholders for feedback** and other input. Given the importance that the European Commission attaches to the study, we would like to kindly ask you to **assist** the study team if you are requested to **share input**, take part in an **interview** or to **complete a survey**. We very much value your contribution to this study.

With regard to **data protection and confidentiality**, we would like to emphasise that the contractor is bound by **strict confidentiality** provisions in their framework contract and specific contract with **DG CNECT** for the assignment.

Yours faithfully,

[e-signed]

Pierre Chastanet
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European Commission