

Datacenters consume more than 1 % of global electricity and demand keeps increasing. As such, it is increasingly important to decarbonize this consumption vector. In this project we concentrated on mid-scale datacenters that for varying reasons: must be located in close proximity to the customer within urban locations, have inadequate land access for renewable energy generation on-site, and where powering with traditional energy sources (diesel generators) is not an option.

Our project was based on a Total Cost of Ownership methodology considering a 1 MW datacenter footprint. Our baseline calculates the cost of such a datacenter powered by a traditional grid (majorly fossil-fuel energy) in addition to multiple scenarios where the datacenter is powered via clean energy (H2).

We explored three different topics for our project:

- H2 Turbines and Fuel Cells as electricity generation options.
- H2 Storage and supply strategy.
- Physical footprint and safety concerns.

All these considerations were included in our Total Cost of Ownership analysis. We concluded that there was not a current economical path for a fully H2 powered datacenter; however, two tracks for future exploration were established:

- Sensitivity analysis to the cost of H2 showed our project could be viable as the DOE targets for H2 cost (\$1/kg) are met in the future.
- Potential for hybrid sites where a portion of the energy comes from a renewable source, is supplied via grid electricity, or the customer has staged emission reduction goals.

H² URBAN DATA CENTERS

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	GRID Power	Grey H2-Needed H2 @1/Kg - DOE Target	Grey H2-Needed H2 @2/Kg	Today H2 H2 @\$3.5/Kg	Green H2 H2 @\$8/Kg
IT Paylod	IT Equipment cost	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 16,000,000
	Container/cooling/	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
	System Managemen	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
Fuel Cells	Bloom Fuel Cells		\$ 977,160	\$ 977,160	\$ 977,160
	Fuel Cell PM	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Storage System	H2 HC Tube Trailer (3@ \$400K/each)		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
	Decompression System		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Hydrogen Cost	H2 Price/KG		\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.50
	H2 Kg/year		\$ 700,800	\$ 700,800	\$ 700,800
	H2 Cost 6 years		\$ 4,204,800	\$ 8,409,600	\$ 14,716,800
GRID Electricity Cost	Cost GRID Power 6	\$ 6,307,200			
	Power COST 6 Year	\$ 6,307,200	\$ 4,204,800	\$ 8,409,600	\$ 33,638,400
TCO	TCO	\$ 34,807,200	\$ 35,931,960	\$ 40,136,760	\$ 46,443,960
	Incremental TCO		3%	15%	33%

Hypothetical Site Schematic