



Tier1Research

Tieto Sweden repurposes former military bunker for 20,000-gross-square-meter datacenter

Datacenters and Colocation

by Jason Schafer

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Tieto Sweden disclosed that work is currently underway on the construction of what it classifies as a state-of-the-art datacenter in an underground cavern/bunker property that the company acquired from the **Swedish Fortifications Agency** (SFA) for an undisclosed amount. The SFA is the landlord for the Swedish Armed Forces that manages various types of military installations.

The two main foci for this datacenter as shared by Tieto are security and environmental consciousness. Security is always one of the top selling points for datacenters in bunkers and caves, so this is of no surprise to T1R. One detail that Tieto believes it has over competitors, however, is that it locates all power delivery equipment within the cavern itself. Initially, T1R thought this was just a fancy way of making something out of nothing in the hopes that the security of the facility sounded better to prospects. Tieto shared, however, that it was analogous to locating all of the critical equipment inside the second security perimeter at other datacenters. Some facilities have an initial security gate through which visitors must pass; but once through, visitors have access to some of the infrastructure equipment such as generators, utility switchgear or HVAC equipment. Then, after parking and entering the building, there is a normally a second security checkpoint where IDs are turned in, badges are received and escorts are met. Tieto shared that in the case of its design, no infrastructure is accessible outside the cavern, making the facility that much more secure.

On the environmental front, the other main foundation for this facility, Tieto indicated that it would make use of various efficiency-focused technologies and practices such as free-cooling, heat reclamation (though it declined to share exactly how it would be used) and a focus on scalability and delivering no more infrastructure in any one module than is needed. What size will the modules be? Tieto shared that there was no minimum or maximum size for the modules, but rather again raised the point that it would deliver just enough for what the customers need.

How much will this facility deliver? Since the security of Tieto's datacenter is of particular concern, the company would not quantify its capacity in any form other than a rough estimate that approximately half of the 20,000 gross square meters (roughly 215,000 square feet) would be used for the eventual population of IT equipment. While Tieto would not share design power density, assuming 1600 watts per square meter (approx 150 watts per square foot), that would equate to roughly 16MW of critical (net) power for IT load.

T1R take

Tieto's datacenter, which it expects to be 'ready' in April of 2010, sounds a lot to T1R like a powered base building with a build-to-suit model. It's all well and good that security and environmental consciousness are significant foundations for the facility, but T1R still maintains that non conventional datacenters such as those in caves or mountains will continue to be viewed by the majority of datacenter shoppers with due skepticism; and lease-up of the datacenter space will be slower than its non-cavernous competitors. T1R thinks that turnup time for a module from Tieto in this facility may be longer than others may be able to offer, which could work against the company. Having said this, however, if Tieto is able to deliver datacenter space and power with reasonable densities (1600 watts per square meter/150 watts per square foot or above) to customers within 6 months from lease signing, it could see significant success.

T1R thinks that Tieto would benefit if it shared a little more about the facility to get the word out and drum up interest. We understand security, but there are some things that can easily be shared without compromising security. What power densities are supported? What are the redundancy/reliability levels of the infrastructure equipment? How many/what network carriers are present? What's the total power availability for IT equipment? These questions and others are details that datacenter prospects want, and they should be readily presented to catch the eye of the growing datacenter outsourcing crowd.

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