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Planning Notices

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as Amended)
Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála
in Respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development
(A proposed Electricity Transmission Development)
County Clare (Clare County Council)**

In accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Data Centres Ltd., gives notice of its intention to make an application for permission/approval to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed development described below.

The proposed development primarily comprises the provision of a new 110 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) grid substation, two 110 kV underground transmission cables connecting to existing 110 kV overhead lines to the north of the proposed substation, and two 110kV underground transmission cables connecting to the existing Ennis 110kV grid substation (located to the east of the M18 and to the north of the Tulla Road (R352)), along with associated ancillary works.

The proposed development is located within the townlands of Tooreen, Calernalough, Knockanurean, Ballymacaill, Muckinish, and Rosstown to the north east of Ennis, on the Tulla Road (R352), Co. Clare. The application site has a total area of c. 9.0 hectares.

The proposed development is described as follows:

The proposed new 110 kV GIS grid substation is to be located on lands at Calernalough, to the north east of Ennis, and in the north of the Tulla Road (R352). The proposed 110kV GIS grid substation is located to the north east of a proposed data centre development subject to a separate concurrent application to Clare County Council under Reg. Ref. P21-757. An EPA-Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) licence will be applied for to facilitate the operation of the development proposed under Reg. Ref. P21-757.

The proposed substation consists of two storey 110kV GIS grid substation building (with a gross floor area of 1,431 sq.m.) enclosed within a 2.6 metre high security fence; a single storey client control building (with a gross floor area of 467 sq.m.); 2 No. 110kV hybrid GIS circuit breakers; 2 no. 110/10kV dual output step down transformers (separated by isolators and metering equipment), and 4 No. medium voltage output switch rooms for distribution to the site and connection to the onsite energy center generators (proposed under concurrent application Reg. Ref. P21-757), all within a 2.6m high fenced compound.

Two existing overhead 110 kV transmission cables circuits traversing the site from south-west to north-east will be undergrounded via 2 no. dropdown masts with two proposed 110kV underground transmission cables (within ducts) to connect the proposed dropdown masts with the proposed 110kV GIS grid substation. Each of the two new circuits will terminate in a cable - overhead line/cable (L/C) interface compound containing air-insulated electrical equipment mounted on concrete plinths. Adjacent to each L/C interface compound, an overhead line tower will be erected to facilitate connection of the new underground cables to the two existing 110 kV overhead lines. Each proposed dropdown mast will be c. 17 metres in height, set on concrete foundations. The obsolete sections of the two existing overhead 110kV lines from the proposed dropdown towers to the existing Ennis 110kV substation, including the supporting poles/masts will be removed/demolished.

Two proposed 110kV underground transmission cables (within ducts) will run from the proposed 110 kV GIS grid substation, connecting to the existing Ennis 110 kV Grid Substation via a route southwards along the proposed main campus internal road (proposed under concurrent application Reg. Ref. P21-757), then turning west along the Tulla Road (R352) until they reach the existing Ennis 110kV grid substation.

The development includes enabling works and services diversions; adjacent access paths to serve the proposed transmission cables; joint bays; connections to the proposed and existing substations; landscaping; security fencing; lightning masts; provision of internal access arrangements within the substation compound services, and all associated construction and ancillary works.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement have been prepared and submitted in respect of this application.

The planning application and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Natura Impact Statement may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on the 30th of June 2022 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (or online at www.pleanala.ie/irish-examiner.com)
- Clare County Council, Aras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, County Clare.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: <http://sial.ardatacentres.com>

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ('the Board') 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to -

- (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- (iii) the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 18th of August 2022. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. (Article 217 of the Planning & Development Regulations refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie)

The Board may in respect of an application for permission/approval decide to-

- (a) grant the permission/approval, or
- (b) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
- (c) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
- (d) refuse to grant the permission/approval.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S. 1, No 15 of 1986, as amended), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading 'Information on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Signed: John Spain Associates (John Spain Associates, Agents)
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