

CALL FOR INNOVATION: NET ZERO START-UP HUB 2027

Call for innovative technology companies

Accelerate your technology. Connect with industry. Build your path to deployment.

The Opportunity

The global data center industry is growing rapidly, creating demand for innovative technologies that improve resilience, efficiency and sustainability.

The Net Zero Start-Up Hub connects innovative technology companies with the organizations shaping the future of sustainable digital infrastructure.

The program is designed specifically for innovative companies developing technologies relevant to data centers, combining industry knowledge, commercial readiness, and direct access to leading operators, technology companies, and experts from across the European data center ecosystem.

Many of tomorrow's data center technologies already exist—they were simply developed for other industries. The Start-Up Hub also helps companies explore how mature technologies can be adapted, validated, and prepared for adoption within data center environments.

Why Join?

Industry Access

Connect directly with leading data center operators, technology companies, engineering firms, investors, and industry experts.

Built for Digital Infrastructure

Every part of the program is designed specifically for companies developing technologies relevant to digital infrastructure—from the curriculum and mentoring to industry engagement and networking opportunities.

Industry Validation

Explore pathways toward pilot projects and future technology demonstrations within the Hub ecosystem. The program is designed to strengthen commercial and technical readiness for future opportunities.

Net Zero Innovation Hub Executive Partners

Investor Engagement

Successful innovation requires more than great technology - it requires the right ecosystem. The Hub leverages its connections to the investor ecosystem and initiatives such as the EU Clean [Energy Systems Program](#) to bridge the gap between innovation, industry, and investment. By combining industry engagement with investor access, the program helps connect emerging technologies to real-world validation and deployment opportunities while supporting the development of scalable, investable solutions.

Innovation Focus Areas

Applications should address one or more of the following innovation focus areas

Power

Technologies supporting resilient, low-carbon power systems for digital infrastructure, including:

- Clean onsite generation
- Grid integration and flexibility
- Long-duration Energy Storage (LDES)
- Power distribution
- High-voltage DC architectures

Heat Reuse & Heat-to-X

Technologies creating value from waste heat, including:

- Heat-to-water
- Heat-to-power
- Carbon capture
- Biomass
- District energy
- Other Heat-to-X applications

Efficiency

With a specific focus on AI-driven applications for energy efficiency.

Technologies improving operational performance and sustainability, including:

- AI-enabled optimization
- Intelligent controls
- Digital twins
- Automation

Net Zero Innovation Hub Executive Partners

Who Should Apply?

The program is designed for innovative companies developing technologies relevant to the future of sustainable digital infrastructure. No prior experience with the data center industry is needed.

We welcome applications from the EMEA region.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Address one or more of the program's innovation focus areas.
- TRL 5-7 (Reference TRL is 6)
- Be ready to demonstrate their technology in a relevant environment within the next 6–18 months.
- Have strong potential for scalability.
- Be available to participate in the in-person Pitch Day in Fredericia, Denmark, on September 22, 2026.
- Be committed to actively participating throughout the six-month program, including four in-person sessions in Fredericia, Denmark.

Up to 10 companies will be selected for the incubation program

Application Process

Milestone	Date
Application Deadline	31 August 2026
Application Evaluation	1–7 September 2026
Selected Companies Notified	8 September 2026
Pitch Event & Final Selection for Incubation Program	22 September 2026

Download the full Program Guide to learn more about the incubation program.

Contact

David Mogensen

Program Lead

Net Zero Innovation Hub for Data Centers

dm@netzerodatacenters.com

www.netzerodatacenters.com

Net Zero Innovation Hub Executive Partners