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Business

Echelon secures grid connection for Wicklow data centre

Campus will lead to creation of 200 permanent jobs in Arklow



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The decision brings to project. Echelon announced frustration earlier this



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with EirGrid on the had expressed its

It is the first large scale laid down by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities in 2021 following a backlash against data centres and a squeeze in electricity supplies.

These criteria require consideration be given to the proposed centre's location – for example, if it is in an area where supply is constrained – and also the ability of the data centre to reduce consumption when requested to do so when capacity on the grid is limited, such as through on-site generation or storage.

The Dub20 campus is located on the site of the former Irish Fertiliser Industries (IFI) site near the [Co Wicklow](#) town, which Echelon has long argued should qualify it for a grid connection as it is not in an area of grid constraint.

The project will also have two on-site energy centres, one to power the data centre and the second to export power and support the national grid when renewable generation output drops below grid demand. It is also close to where SSE Renewables plans to build an offshore wind farm capable of producing 800MW.

Echelon also plans to build a 220kV substation on-site that will allow access to the grid for renewable energy generated off the coast of Wicklow, and is investing in solar, battery energy storage systems and renewable energy to offset the fossil fuels consumed by the data centre.

“Dub20 is a model for the future – and EirGrid's decision to provide a grid connection for the facility will ensure investment of €3.5 billion in data centre and

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Morgan Stanley and U
described as “material



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investment of €850
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[Ciara O'Brien](#)

Ciara O'Brien is an Irish Times business and technology journalist



Echelon

Eirgrid

Wicklow

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