KING’S COLLEGE LONDON

As one of the top 20 universities globally, King’s College London is dedicated to world-class teaching and cutting-edge research. King’s is a founding partner of a group of universities alongside Jisc – a charity that provides digital solutions for education and research in the UK – that has established the first UK and world collaborative research data centre to drive and maintain the UK as global research powerhouse.

Key challenges for King’s College

King’s College London’s data centre facilities were inefficient, outdated and an unsuitable environment for future technology development. The result was an ad-hoc evolution of technology and infrastructure, which was not conducive to the research aspirations of the college.

This was compounded by the increased need for computational solutions to undertake large medical research programmes using High Performance Computing (HPC) clusters which handle and analyse large amounts of data at high speed. Tasks that can take months using normal computers can be done in days or even minutes with HPC platform, making these systems essential for successful research.

The solution – A colocation data centre

To overcome some of these challenges, various relationships with other research-intensive universities as well as Jisc, the provider of the JANET network that serves 18 million users were developed. Through these conversations a partnership was formed between Jisc, King’s College London, The Sanger Institute, The Francis Crick Institute, The London School of Economics & Political Science and Queen Mary University of London.

Together these institutions had a common interest: to create shared facilities in which researchers could collaborate. They also wanted to increase energy efficiency and reduce cost. To meet all of these requirements, Jisc and its institutional partners chose to set up a shared data centre to provide a platform for greater collaboration between universities and other research institutions.

LONDON4 was chosen for its commercial flexibility, along with its agile, resilient and efficient data centre platform, whilst also enabling institutions to fully manage the connectivity of their services.

LONDON4 is able to supply as standard a range of power densities from 4k to 30kW per rack. The data centre can quickly cater for periods of high power demand if required by the partners, which is common among those who work on complicated research and require HPC.

Why LONDON4?

VIRTUS LONDON4, situated in the Slough Trading Estate, is a state of the art data centre facility, built to a Tier III standard, with multiple ISO accreditations. The data centre benefits from 27 MW of IT load in a facility that is over 36,000 m², providing ample space and ability for UAL to easily grow according to their needs.

The site benefits from seven layers of physical security, making it ultra secure, with around the clock surveillance of all IT infrastructure, giving UAL peace of mind. As well as this, LONDON4 is designed with eco-efficiency in mind, whilst also always offering 100% on power, meaning the site will never go dark, so key IT functions at the university will never be interrupted.

The University’s executive said…

› FASTER: Migrated services are running noticeably faster since the move to VIRTUS LONDON4

› MORE RESILIENT: There will be no chance of a power failure and the new equipment is configured to cope smoothly with the failure of any one component so we have confidence in our key business services

› SECURITY: The new network design safely separates data and services so the risk of breach reduced. The implementation of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has increased the interest in this

› GREENER: LONDON4’s green credentials support the University of Arts’ ambitions for maintaining eco-efficient operations

For more information

To learn more about VIRTUS Data Centres, their facilities, migration packages and how they can help your business, visit www.virtusdatacentres.com

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