# LUXEMBOURG FOCUS

Luxembourg is traditionally known as a financial and broadcasting hub, located at the heart of Europe, with large multinationals historically attracted by high living standards and a favourable tax environment. In recent years however, this small country has begun to take advantage of its strategic location – surrounded on all sides by the major centres of London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Paris – and has been investing consistently in its ICT infrastructure over the last decade.
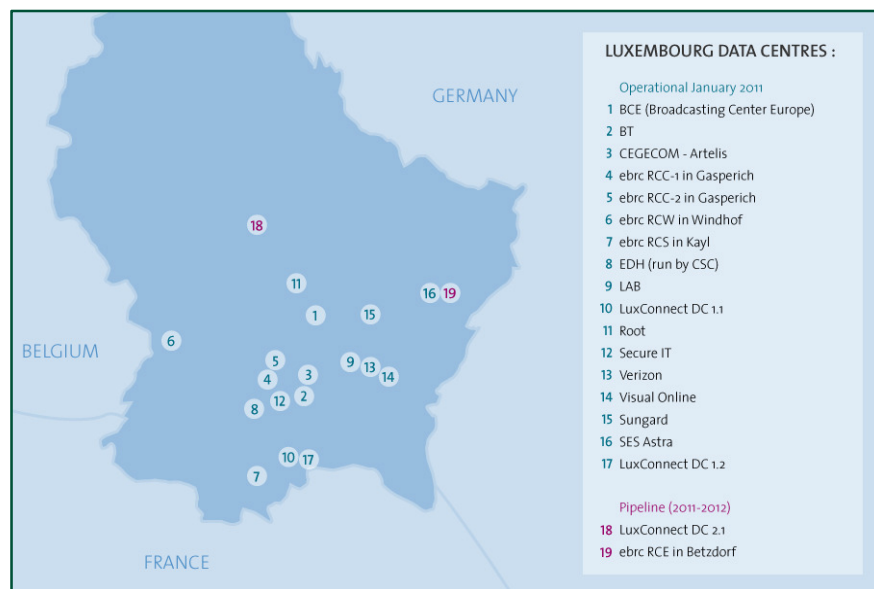
As recent as five years ago, international connectivity to Luxembourg could have best been described as limited. A series of significant initiatives have been implemented since 2005, both government-backed and private, and now Luxembourg can boast having 10 different high capacity routes (with multiple 3.5 Tbit/s networks) connecting Luxembourg directly to the major Internet exchanges and data centres in continental Europe and the United Kingdom.
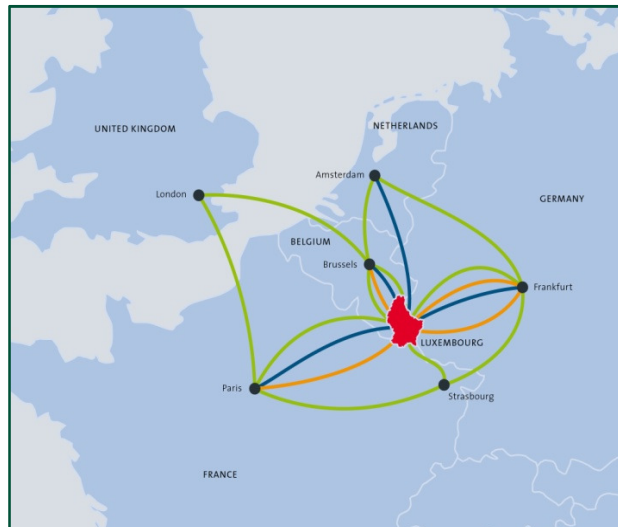
Additionally, dark fibre has been made available and continues to be laid country wide with this extra capacity attracting an increasing audience of operators, integrators and hosting companies. The government in Luxembourg has also made a commitment, like many of its European partners, to provide improved access to high speed broadband for much of the population, which should see over 25% of inhabitants receiving speeds of up to 1Gbps by 2013.

For data centres, Luxembourg has been a relatively late entrant to the European market with traditional centres such as London, Amsterdam or Frankfurt establishing their ICT infrastructure some years ago and consequently securing their dominant status in the European data centre market.

Today however, Luxembourg is firmly aiming to provide some competition to these major players and to date has seventeen established data centres in operation, totalling 337,459 ft² (31,351 m²) of net technical space. The dominant financial services sector historically has enforced the need for high specification and highly secure facilities and as such, Luxembourg can boast a higher than average share of Tier IV certified centres.

LUXEMBOURG DATA CENTRES :

Operational January 2011
1 BCE (Broadcasting Center Europe)
2 BT
3 CEGECOM - Artelis
4 ebrc RCC-1 in Gasperich
5 ebrc RCC-2 in Gasperich
6 ebrc RCW in Windhof
7 ebrc RCS in Kayl
8 EDH (run by CSC)
9 LAB
10 LuxConnect DC 1.1
11 Root
12 Secure IT
13 Verizon
14 Visual Online
15 Sungard
16 SES Astra
17 LuxConnect DC 1.2

Pipeline (2011-2012)
18 LuxConnect DC 2.1
19 ebrc RCE in Betzdorf

Existing data centre operators in Luxembourg are also pursuing the 'green agenda' as a priority in order to gain a further edge. A number of initiatives have been noted from natural cooling to redistributed heat, all of which have helped see the PUE in some locations achieve around 1.5.

Further improvement to achieved PUE are expected from the two new data centres which will be unveiled before the end of 2012. These new facilities will add 101,181 sq ft (9,400 m²) of net technical space to the offering in Luxembourg and are expected to achieve a PUE of 1.35.

Clearly, Luxembourg has high ambitions of competing amongst the major data centre market locations in Europe and has much to offer, not least the favourable energy costs which may well see those pursuing the 'Cloud' as potential suitors. Luxembourg has certainly set the necessary foundations over the past few years in order that it can be considered as a viable alternative or complement to Europe's major markets, and whilst to date we have not seen any pan European or global data centre operators establish a presence, this potentially is not far off.