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CEDaCI

UNIQUE EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROJECT USES INTERACT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY METRICS AND COST PROJECTIONS

BACKGROUND

Circular Economy in the Data Centre Industry (CEDaCI) is an Interreg NW funded European research project that covers France, North-West Germany, the UK and the Netherlands which is also the geographical location of most of Europe's data centres. The focus is to create a pathway to more circular economy in the sector, with a particular focus on critical raw materials (CRMs) in servers.

CEDaCI was recently granted €1.245 million to extend its reach into Belgium, Luxembourg and Ireland from 2022. Deliverables include a decision-making compass for data centre managers, and educational workshops for the sector to enable circular approaches to IT refresh.

THE CEDaCI PROJECT

- 7 countries across North-West Europe

- 4 years, 6 months

- €4,500,000

- Interreg NW funded

- To inform policy

THE CHALLENGE

CEDaCI needed to carry out life cycle assessment and costing of a range of servers and models. This is notoriously difficult because of the number of variables. Not only is there an extensive materials list, each with different environmental impacts, the energy usage of the equipment has to be environmentally and economically costed over time.

The Interact tool was needed to analyse the energy usage of specific makes and models over time to factor into the decision-making process. This needed to be in a format that could easily be collated with other information, in order to give the decision-making tool the data that it needed.

ANALYSIS

Interact carried out a 12-step life cycle cost analysis using its first machine-learning software tool. The tool analysed multiple vendors of servers including current and previous models and calculated the energy efficiency metrics and cost projections for specific servers.

Interact is the only tool on the market that can provide performance data on the exact range of servers that CEDaCI is researching. Using the tool saved the CEDaCI team hundreds of hours of server analysis and benchmarking, and also provided a higher degree of accuracy.

In addition, the Interact team helped to develop a business case for refurbished hardware, which is one of the deliverables of the project. The team is on hand to provide further consultancy to support research on additional makes and models as and when required.

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