

Inside Stories

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Major investment by Google in UK Innovation Corridor, tech giant invests \$1 billion in Waltham Cross and buys space at North Weald in Essex for future growth

Google's \$1 billion investment in a new UK data centre

It's not often that Waltham Cross gets a mention at Davos - the annual meeting of the world's movers and shakers held in January at the Swiss ski resort. This year Debbie Weinstein, Vice President of Google and Managing Director of Google UK & Ireland announced significant new investments in her statement to the Davos gathering:

People and businesses in every corner of the UK rely on data centres to power helpful services like Search, Maps, YouTube, Workspace and Google Cloud. As more people tap into the opportunities created by the country's digital economy and we unlock new ways for AI-powered technologies to boost productivity, fuel creativity, improve health outcomes and unlock scientific discoveries, it's vital that we invest in the technical infrastructure needed to support innovation and tech-led growth.

One of the ways that we're doing this is by investing \$1 billion in a new UK data centre in Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire. The 33-acre site will create construction and technical jobs for the local community. Once complete, this investment will bring crucial compute capacity to businesses across the UK, supporting AI innovation and helping to ensure reliable digital services to Google Cloud customers and Google users in the UK and abroad.

Google's continued investment in the UK

Today's investment in our Waltham Cross data centre is the latest in a series of investments that support Brits and the wider economy at large and is further evidence of Google's continued commitment to the UK — a key country for our business and a pioneering world leader in AI, technology and science. This announcement builds on our investment in our offices with the \$1bn purchase of our Central Saint Giles office in 2022, the 1 million sq ft. development in King's Cross, and the launch of our Accessibility Discovery Centre — which aims to spur the creation of accessible tech for the whole of the

UK.

Beyond our office walls, in 2021, we laid a new subsea cable — Grace Hopper — which connects the United Kingdom with the United States and Spain. We have visited more than 500 locations across the UK since 2015 and provided over 1 million people with free digital skills training. Just last year, we expanded our Google Digital Garage training programme to also include a new AI-focussed curriculum to enable more Brits to tap into the opportunities to benefit from the opportunities created by this technology.

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