



Durham AIRR Update

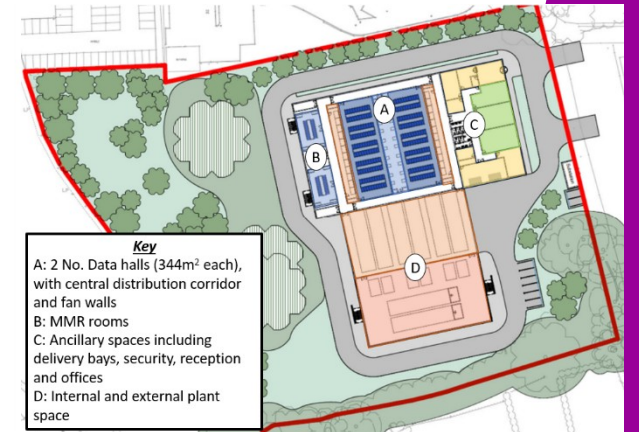
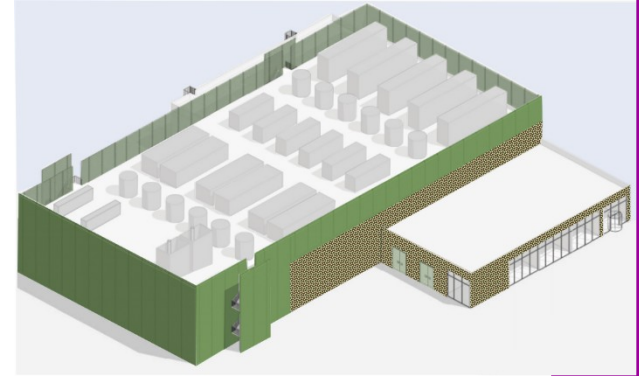
AI Research Resource
Feb 2024
Alastair Basden

Process summary

- April 2023: Budget earmarks £100m for AI systems
- June 2023: Fact finding form by DSIT
- Summer 2023: Bristol selected for £240m AIRR system
- November 2023: Spending review allocates a further £500m for AIRR
- December 2024: Small number of sites requested to submit 2 pages on their hosting ability
- January 2024: Call for information from hosting sites
- February 2024: Call for proposals for hosting sites

The Durham bid

- Submitted last week
- Data centre only (as requested)
 - compute proposal call will come later
- A new 10MW data centre at Aykley Heads
 - Up to 8,000 GPUs (Frontier has ~38,000)
 - (our intention is 5,000 GPUs, ~250 PFLOPS)
 - Building works complete by ~end 2024
 - ~£60m
 - 4MW power installed by end 2024, 10MW by end 2025
 - Part of the new Durham Innovation Zone
 - Comes under the ARC umbrella
 - Should provide space for DiRAC-4/COSMA 9



Next steps

- Wait to hear
 - End of this week/beginning of next week
 - Highly optimistic
 - Pre-budget announcement on 1st March expected to announce sites
- If successful we expect to be asked to put in a proposal for compute hardware
- Competing bids that we are aware of:
 - Cambridge, Edinburgh, Hartree, Bristol, UCL, QMUL, Belfast