

# TRE gets land funding for Canberra data centre

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Data centre developer Technical Real Estate has inched closer to building its delay-plagued \$1 billion technology park to service the Canberra market after it secured a \$5.2 million funding deal from Challenger Financial Services Group for a 12-hectare site in the industrial suburb of Hume.

The funding for the development-approved greenfields site in the ACT comes as federal agencies, which are fast running out of space to house their computer systems, pressure the finance department to accelerate the release of tenders for new data centre capacity due by the end of 2010.

The purchase of TRE's Hume site is the first step in what the company hopes will become a 14,000 square metre facility powered by a 28 megawatt gas-fired co-generation facility that can run independently of Canberra's sometimes unreliable single electricity grid.

Big agencies including Centrelink

and the Department of Defence have been hit by data centre outages caused by power supply problems over the past two years, disruptions that have rung alarm bells at the highest levels of government.

TRE had originally proposed to build a much larger \$2 billion 210-MW gas-fired data centre in conjunction with ActewAGL in Tuggeranong that could be used to offset peak power demands in the ACT.

But the project was scaled back after it encountered fierce opposition from residents during the local election campaign, prompting ActewAGL to decouple from the development and buy land just outside the ACT in Williamsdale to build a 500 MW gas-fired peaking power station.

The funding for TRE to buy its Hume data park site is likely to be a relief to the federal government after TRE repeatedly threatened to pull out of the development if it could not get up-front tenancy commitments to secure development funding.