International industrial investment in Ringerike

Together with industrial stakeholders in Ringerike, the local authorities have examined the possibility of establishing major global data centres in Ringerike.

The Ringerike Municipal Council and the real estate firm Follum Eiendom have joined forces with Ringeriks-Kraft, Energiselskapet Buskerud (EB), Vardar and Statnett to launch this international industry initiative.

Work is already underway based on recommendations from Invest in Norway, which has taken note of Ringerike's vast potential for such ventures. Invest in Norway is an investment promotion function within Innovation Norway that works to identify industrial opportunities that will attract foreign investors to Norway.

Work so far has confirmed that conditions in Ringerike are excellent for the data storage industry.

Ringerike has large areas that are regulated for industry, local renewable energy production and proximity to both Oslo and the international airport at Gardermoen. In addition, the municipality has Norway’s most robust power supply thanks to the Statnett and EB’s supply lines.

“We are therefore planning to move forward with a concrete feasibility study and actively promote Ringerike as a prime candidate for new global data centres,” says Chief Municipal Executive Tore Isaksen.

Currently, the Follum-moen industrial area is considered to be the best site, and the municipality will continue working on this option with local landowners. Treklyngen and Ringerike Utvikling will assist the municipality in facilitating and promoting these opportunities.

In the 2016 national budget, the Norwegian Parliament adopted a reduced electricity tax for large data centres. This is to promote industrial development and value creation based on renewable power production in Norway. It is estimated that dozens
of data centres will be set up in Europe over the next five years. Apple, Facebook and Google have already established a presence in Denmark, Sweden and Finland, respectively, which has resulted in hundreds of new jobs in each country.

“Invest in Norway is very pleased with the work being done by the Ringerike Municipal Council and their industrial partners. We believe that facilitating this kind of activity in Ringerike will strengthen Norway’s competitive edge in this emerging global industry,” says Finn Kristian Aamodt, Director and Head of Invest in Norway at Innovation Norway.

“This demonstrates that Ringerike is an attractive region for international industries. It also shows that our region is important in terms of the green shift and the development of the Norwegian mainland economy through the creation of new and forward-looking jobs,” said Mayor Kjell B. Hansen.

“If we succeed, we will see investment in the billions and the creation of hundreds of new jobs. This fits in well with the investments that are being made in the new E16 and the Ringerike Line,” said Mayor Kjell B. Hansen.

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Data centre: A data centre is an industrial site with hundreds of thousands of computers processing and storing data for consumers and business customers. For example, Facebook has invested around NOK 5 billion in the expansion of its data centre in Luleå in northern Sweden. When the final phase of construction has been completed, the data centre will be a total of 1.5 km long. The centre will use nearly as much power as an aluminium works. Similarly, Apple is planning to build an equally massive data centre in Viborg, Denmark, which will run off imported Norwegian hydropower. International calibre data centres need up to 500,000 square metres or more of available space, and 50–300 MW of power per facility. The largest Norwegian data centres are only a few thousand square metres.

Invest in Norway: is an investment promotion function within Innovation Norway, focusing on facilitating foreign investment and attracting industrial developers looking to establish a presence in Norway.