GeN+1

2026

Year in Review



What did we achieve?



A global community continuing to grow.

More people connecting, learning and discovering their place in the data centre industry.

3,388

Community contacts

6,054

LinkedIn followers

3,006

Newsletter subscribers





Education, wellness and social events shaped how we brought the industry together.



Education

Our community learned along with the industry. Masterclass events and our Elevate Conference created room for practical knowledge, honest questions and career progression.



Wellness

Our community connected through movement. The Padel Cup and global Run Clubs made time for wellbeing, shared challenges and conversations beyond the workplace.



Social

Our community built relationships that lasted beyond the event. GeNtonbury and The Spooky Sync-Up made networking welcoming, memorable and fun.

Your 2026 GeN+1 calendar.

90% of events were sold out across 2026

JANUARY

- Run Club — SOLD OUT
- Giving Feedback Confidently masterclass — SOLD OUT

FEBRUARY

- Run Club — SOLD OUT

MARCH

- GeN+1 PADEL CUP — SOLD OUT
- Run Club — SOLD OUT

APRIL

- FWD x GeN+1 masterclass — SOLD OUT
- Run Club — SOLD OUT

MAY

- Run Club — SOLD OUT

JUNE

GeNTONBURY

- Elevate Conference — SOLD OUT
- Cannes Run Club x3 — SOLD OUT

JULY

- Run Club — SOLD OUT

SEPTEMBER

- Anniversary Run Club — SOLD OUT
- Antibes Run Club — SOLD OUT

OCTOBER

THE SPOOKY SYNC-UP

- Run Club — SOLD OUT

NOVEMBER

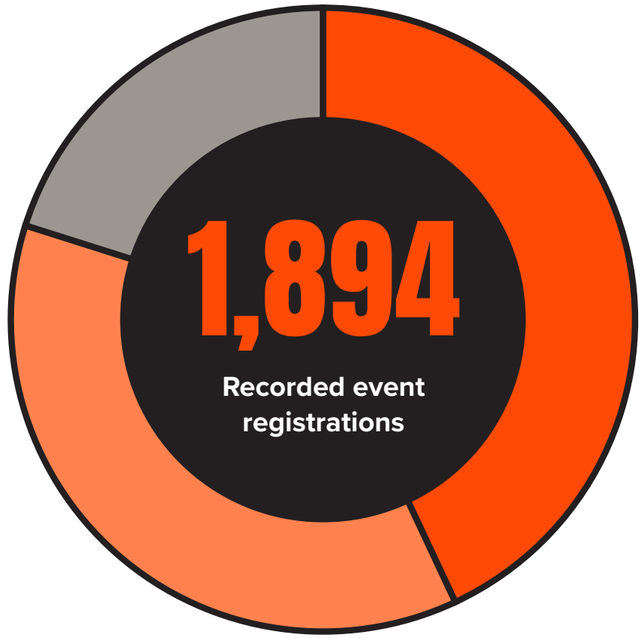
- GeN+1 x MiCiM Technical Masterclass — SOLD OUT
- Run Club — SOLD OUT

DECEMBER

- Run Club - upcoming

The people who showed up.

Every way of taking part, counted.





815 Wellness — 43.0%

Run Clubs (12 entries) 715
Padel Cup 100

698 Social — 36.9%

GeNtonbury 312
The Spooky Sync-Up 386

381 Education — 20.1%

Elevate Conference 235
Masterclasses (3 events) 146

2027 dates are now available → Get them into your team's calendar

This year we launched GeN+1 Elevate.

11 June 2026. Emerging talent and industry leaders came together to learn, speak and connect.

235
Attendees

119
Companies

146
Unique job titles

27
Average age

42%
Female attendance

93/100
Morale score





The industry made it happen.

Speakers, sponsors and supporters came together to share knowledge, spark conversations and help bring our first Elevate Conference to life. A day dedicated to the next generation of data centre professionals.

Relive Elevate 2026

Across the data centre ecosystem.

Our members and partners span the whole ecosystem. This is a small snapshot of the companies we connect, with opportunities to learn, build relationships and champion talent at every stage of the supply chain.

OPERATORS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

EQUINIX
KAO DATA
Microsoft
Google
VANTAGE DATA CENTERS
DIGITAL REALTY
Global Switch
NTT DATA

CONSULTANTS AND DELIVERY

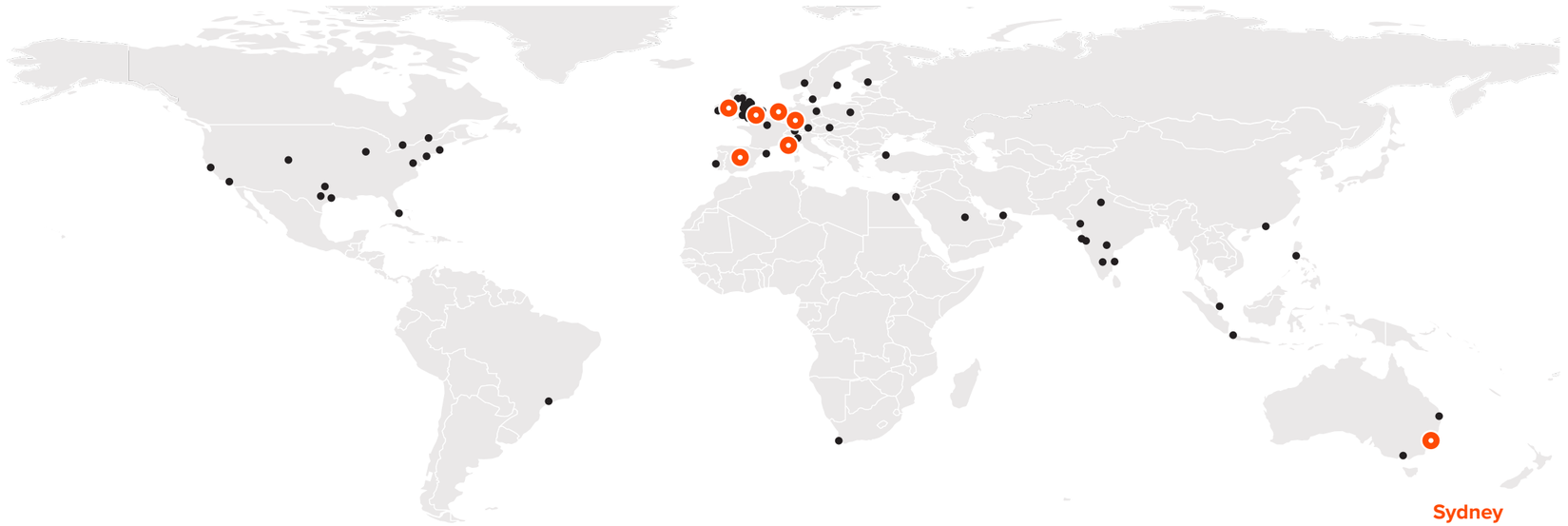
ARUP
DATALEC
RED
SKANSKA
MiCiM Mission Critical Management
TSL
GRANT WALKER ENGINEERING
BCS
esg

PRODUCTS AND KNOWLEDGE

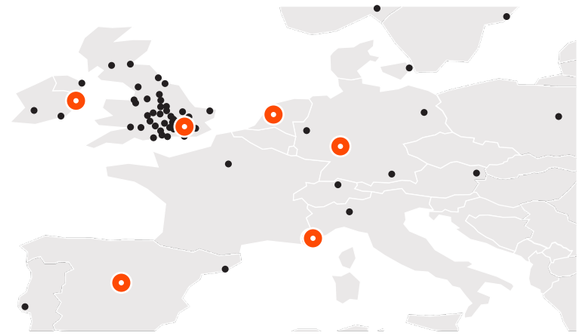
AF Switchgear
DATACENTER HAWK
Durata
MOY
AVK
legrand
VERTIV
eXcool advanced data center cooling
DCByte

Local Connections & Global Reach.

Our community hubs bring people together. Our social audience carries the conversation further.



EUROPE IN FOCUS



- **Event / community hubs**
- **Social audience locations**

People at every stage of the industry...

STARTING OUT

Apprentices and graduates

BUILDING EXPERTISE

Engineers, designers and delivery teams

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Leaders, directors and founders

You kept the conversation going.

An engaged audience that clicks, shares and keeps the next generation in the conversation.

22.3%

LinkedIn engagement rate
(Benchmark: 5.2% average)

358,293

LinkedIn impressions

2,349

New LinkedIn followers

141

Posts published

12,510

Page views

INSTAGRAM

29,168

Impressions

TIKTOK

45,039

Video Views

Source: Socialinsider, 2026 LinkedIn

Hot off the press.

Our LinkedIn Newsletter, Watt's Up, GeN+1?!, brings partner stories, industry news and career opportunities to a subscribed audience.

3,006

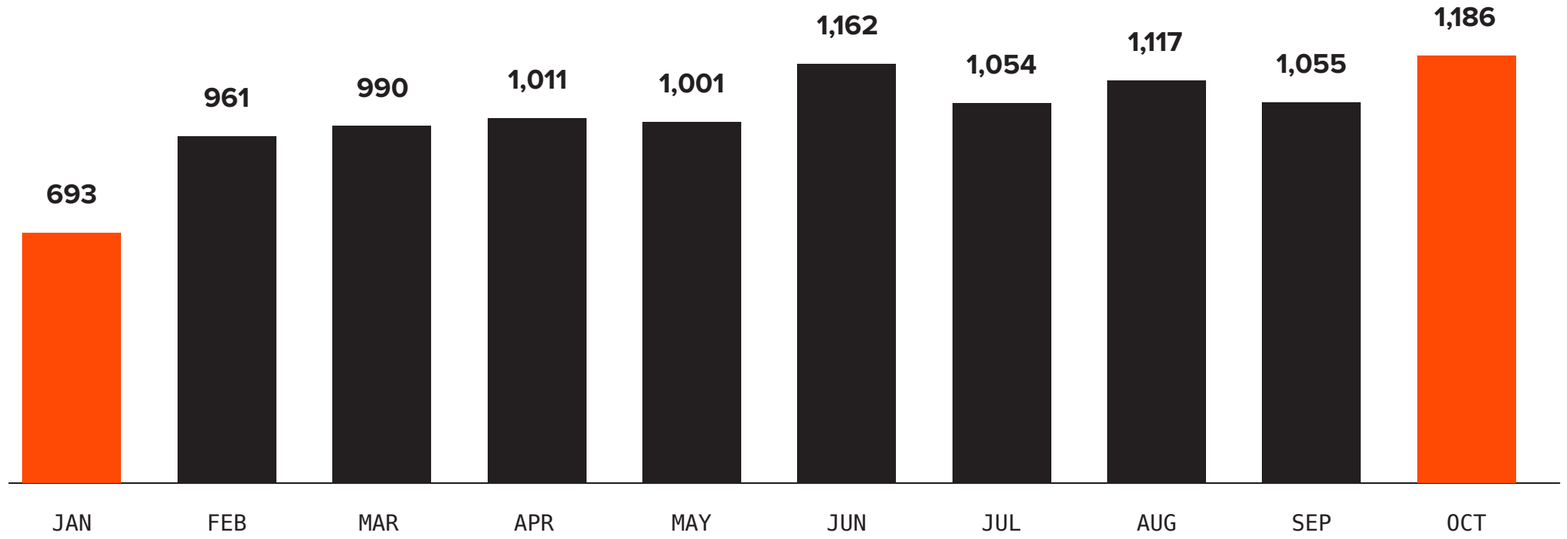
Newsletter subscribers

Your monthly download from the next generation of digital infrastructure.

~50%

Of our LinkedIn following.

ARTICLE VIEWS BY MONTHLY EDITION



+71% article views from January to October

From 693 to 1,186 views per edition, with readership finishing well above its January level.

A way in for a way forward.

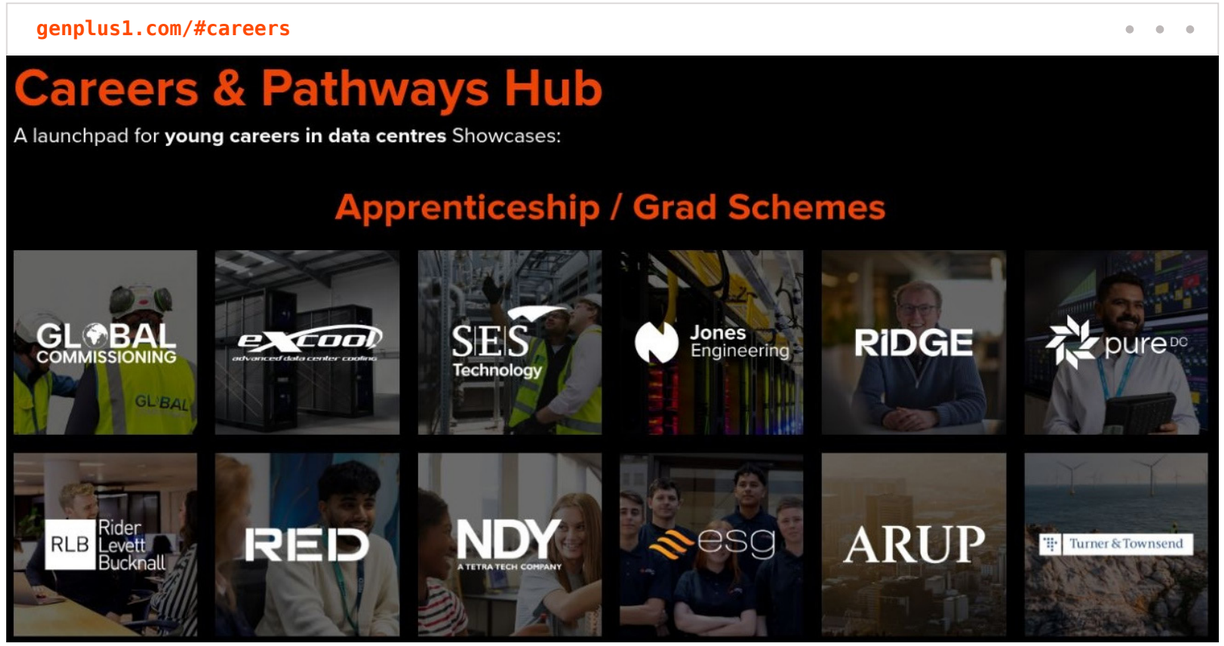
You can’t pursue an opportunity you don’t know exists.

22
employer listings currently featured

7
partner industry initiatives

200+
website clicks in 2026

Our Careers & Pathways Hub brings together apprenticeships, graduate schemes, career opportunities and industry resources, making the routes into data centres easier to find.



Making pathways accessible.

A resource to share with schools, colleges and careers advisers, helping students find entry-level roles, explore different pathways and understand how to take their first step into the industry.

EXPLORE THE HUB →

What's next?





2027

The next generation, in their own words.

GeN+1 Insights, powered by PepTalk. A clearer picture of what young talent wants from the industry.

JANUARY 2027 / PLANNED PUBLICATION



Listen

Short check-ins explore connection, career choices, retention, barriers and support.

Share

The pilot study is planned for January 2027, bringing our community's experiences together.

PepTalk.



Illustration of the morale check-in

Early access for Impact Partners

All Impact Partners will receive a first look at the findings and permission to use the data to inform how they attract, support and retain young talent.

Introducing your business to the next generation.

Our partnership with The Switch brings the next generation closer to careers in the data centre industry.

the switch

The Switch helps young people build skills and confidence through employer volunteering, employability programmes and work experience.

Explore The Switch's employer programmes



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS DAYS

First refusal for our Impact Partners.

Impact Partners get first refusal to take part in our Industry Insights Days, putting your people in front of young talent in schools, colleges and universities.

For your company, it is a chance to introduce your career opportunities, share real stories and meet potential future team members before they have even discovered your business.

Getting technical with Microsoft.

2027 / MASTERCLASS PLANS

GeN+1 X Microsoft



For 2027, we're collaborating with Microsoft and its Datacenter Academy to bring a new series of masterclass events to the GeN+1 community.

Our ambition is to make technical knowledge accessible, useful and relevant. From supporting people already working in the industry to introducing students to the opportunities within it.

Already in the industry?

Practical technical sessions that deepen understanding, build confidence and support the work our community does every day.

Finding your way in?

Accessible introductions to how data centres work, the people behind them and the different routes into a career.

For the people powering data centres. And the people who don't know they could.

Why the industry gets behind GeN+1.

Hear from the people and businesses already backing GeN+1.

“We’ve got some big challenges to tackle, especially when it comes to the skills shortage, and GeN+1 feels like the right move to start making real progress. It’s not just about getting young people interested in the industry, but also making sure they actually want to stick around and grow in it.”

BCS Consultancy

GeN+1 Impact Partner

“At VIRTUS, we believe deeply in the power of the next generation. Supporting Elevate reflects our commitment to nurturing fresh perspectives, opening doors, and building a more diverse, future-ready industry.”

VIRTUS Data Centres

GeN+1 Elevate & Padel sponsor

“Events where hundreds of professionals came together to connect, learn and help shape the future of the data centre industry.”

AF Switchgear

GeN+1 Impact Partner

Be part of what's next.

This year, we brought people together, shared practical knowledge and made routes into data centres easier to find. With the industry behind us, we can take that further in 2027.

Whether you want to meet the next generation, share your expertise or help create more opportunities, there's a place for you at GeN+1.

info@gen1.network



View 2027 sponsorship opportunities

WITH THANKS TO OUR 2026 IMPACT PARTNERS

AF Switchgear · AVK · BCS The global data centre consultancy · 3C DATALEC · esg · GRANT WALKER · KAO DATA · MOY