Data Centre Jobs in Engineering and Facilities Management

The engineering within a data centre is what makes everything work – data centres bring different engineering disciplines together under one roof: telecoms, mechanical, electrical and more. If the IT is the brain, then the engineering is the heart and the circulation system, powering everything from the servers to the cooling systems. Just like our hearts, the engineering in data centres has to work 24/7, 365 days a year because servers can't cope with even the tiniest interruptions in power supply – they aren't like laptops which you can unplug and will work from an internal battery. So the infrastructure has to ensure a continuous electricity supply to keep the servers running– if the grid fails there are big battery banks and emergency generators on site. Temperature and humidity must be controlled so that servers don't overheat or malfunction. This is why data centres are called critical environments!

Image source: Global Switch

Sample roles

- Data Centre Technician: there are lots of technical roles in data centres across multiple disciplines, with opportunities to build knowledge about data centre environments before choosing a specialist route.
- Data Centre Shift Engineer, Shift Lead: data centres run 24/7 so operations tend to work in shifts.
- Data Centre Operations Manager: each data centre tends to have its own operational lead who takes responsibility for the day to day running of the facility.
- Critical Systems Engineer: there are lots of engineering roles keeping the systems running is one of the most important!
- Engineering Director: leads the engineering functions in a data centre or group of data centres
- Technical Director: likely to look after a group of data centres, or even all the data centres for an organisation. Responsible for decisions relating to the technical and engineering infrastructure.
- Data Centre Cooling Technician / Engineer: cooling systems are critical in data centres to ensure the servers don't overheat, to prevent hotspots and also minimise the energy used by these systems.

Who is working in data centre engineering and facilities management?

My name is Taiwo Bello and I am Life Cycle and Infrastructure Manager at Global Switch. My role involves planning ahead for the replacement of equipment that is critical in keeping the data centres running.

My job varies on a day-to-day basis from developing replacement plans / strategies and producing long term financial forecasts, to working through energy calculations.

Over 12 years of working in the data centre industry across Europe, I have held a variety of roles covering design, installation, commissioning and operation of data centres varying in age and type.

I started on the graduate scheme at Johnson Controls before working for CBRE and now Global Switch. This career has given me the chance to travel and work closely with people from across the world.