



N E X T D C

DATA CENTRE INTERCONNECTION CHECKLIST



N E X T D C

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WHY INTERCONNECTION EXCELLENCE SHOULD MATTER TO YOU

Interconnection is the invisible fabric that holds your digital operations together, forming the foundation of an agile and resilient business. As organisations accelerate their cloud-first strategies and adopt technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), high-performance computing (HPC) and edge computing, the demands on network infrastructure have never been greater.

Seamless, secure and low-latency connectivity – architected for complete fault tolerance – ensures 24/7 access to mission-critical services and protects against data loss or service interruptions. Without robust interconnection capabilities, organisations risk performance bottlenecks, costly downtime, loss of real-time visibility over data, workloads, people and processes and security vulnerabilities that can derail operational continuity and erode trust.

At the same time, a modern interconnection strategy equips organisations to adapt and scale instantly, supporting hybrid ecosystems and future-ready workloads. Whether responding to market changes or handling data-intensive tasks such as AI model training and inferencing, a flexible and scalable approach ensures your organisation is ready for whatever comes next.

By optimising data flows and enabling faster, more secure collaboration across distributed environments, interconnection becomes a strategic enabler of risk mitigation strategies and competitive advantage. It accelerates time-to-market for new services and strengthens customer engagement by delivering exceptional user experiences.

Our Evaluation Criteria

1. Network Design Support
2. Resilience and Redundancy
3. Ecosystem Access
4. Flexibility and Agility
5. Private, Intermarket Connectivity
6. Cost Savings and Complexity Reductions
7. Centralised, Visible Self-Management and Self-Provisioning

How to use this Checklist

- 1. Review each section:** Each category includes key considerations to evaluate a provider's strengths and weaknesses.
- 2. Check the boxes:** For each provider, check the box next to each feature or capability they offer. Leave the box unchecked if they do not provide it. Final scores will tally automatically on page 6.
- 3. Compare the results:** Use the scoring guide at the end to determine which provider is the best fit for you.

1. COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT FOR BEST PRACTICE NETWORK DESIGN AND SUPPORT

COLOCATION PROVIDERS

PROVIDER D

PROVIDER C

PROVIDER B

PROVIDER A

Why this matters: It's important to operate with peace-of-mind that there will be no unexpected outages because your interconnection solution has been engineered from scratch for maximum resilience and uptime. Proactively managed resilient, redundant pathways ensure continuous connectivity during maintenance, failures and the inevitable incidents of human error, thereby protecting your operations and building trust with your customers through uninterrupted network availability.

PROVIDER D
PROVIDER C
PROVIDER B
PROVIDER A

3. BROAD ECOSYSTEM ACCESS

Why this matters: Proximity to a rich ecosystem of cloud providers and service partners enables faster, more direct connections to critical clouds and other critical digital services. Whether your teams are collaborating across regions or accessing essential applications, seamless, low-latency connectivity helps eliminate delays and optimise performance.

	PROVIDER A	PROVIDER B	PROVIDER C	PROVIDER D
Can you peer directly with ecosystem partners or customers within the same facility?				
Does the data centre provide direct access to major cloud providers (AWS, Azure, Google, Oracle) and GPU-as-a-Service platforms such as SharonAI?				
Is the provider carrier-neutral, so you can choose from multiple providers rather than being locked into one?				
Are there diverse cloud on-ramps (direct access points to cloud platforms like AWS, Azure, Google etc.) within the same facility or private network?				
Is it easy to initiate new connections to directly share data and collaborate with selected ecosystem partners on a utility-style, as-a-Service basis?				
ECOSYSTEM ACCESS SCORE				

4. COMMITMENT TO FLEXIBILITY AND AGILITY

Why this matters: Scaling your network should be as simple as upgrading your internet plan at home – but with enterprise-level power. Flexible interconnection solutions let you self-provision bandwidth increases up to 100Gbps – ideal for large workloads like AI model training – and add new connections in real time to support new services or demand surges without delays.

	PROVIDER A	PROVIDER B	PROVIDER C	PROVIDER D
Can you set up and adjust connections yourself (without provider intervention), with bandwidth that scales up to 100Gbps to handle data-intensive workloads?				
Can bandwidth be adjusted on demand without delays?				
Is there support for hybrid cloud and multi-cloud environments?				
How quickly can new interconnections be established?				
FLEXIBILITY AND AGILITY SCORE				



5. PRIVATE, INTERMARKET CONNECTIVITY

Why this matters: How do you handle data transfers between regions when every second counts? Whether migrating workloads or sharing sensitive data, private intermarket connections offer low-latency, high-reliability performance that supports real-time decision-making and keeps data safe from external threats.

	PROVIDER A	PROVIDER B	PROVIDER C	PROVIDER D
Can the provider offer direct, private connections between different regions, facilities and ecosystems including access to international subsea cables and third-party-hosted availability zones?				
Does the network offer ultra-low latency to support real-time data transfer and AI workload migration?				
Are private data connections available for secure, high-reliability transfers?				
Is the infrastructure optimised for AI and high-performance workloads?				
Is Layer 2 data encryption (MACSec) supported for securing data in-flight between regions or inter-market connections?				
PRIVATE, INTERMARKET CONNECTIVITY SCORE				

6. COST SAVINGS AND COMPLEXITY REDUCTION

Why this matters: Hidden costs can derail your IT budget. Transparent pricing models with flat-fee cross-connects and pay-as-you-go services help you avoid surprises and keep your network costs predictable – no matter how much your connectivity needs grow.

	PROVIDER A	PROVIDER B	PROVIDER C	PROVIDER D
Does the provider offer flat-rate cross-connects with optional capacities to simplify billing?				
Are fees for transferring data out of the cloud minimised through direct interconnections?				
Can connectivity be managed as an operational rather than capital expense?				
Are the interconnection services designed to avoid hidden costs and complexity?				
COST SAVINGS AND COMPLEXITY REDUCTION SCORE				

7. CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT

Why this matters: A single interface for managing your network can save time and reduce errors. Centralised management platforms provide real-time performance insights, intuitive controls and automation options that simplify interconnection management – so you can focus on growth and innovation instead of troubleshooting.

	PROVIDER A	PROVIDER B	PROVIDER C	PROVIDER D
Does the provider offer a unified platform for managing all connectivity services?				
Is the management portal intuitive and user-friendly?				
Are real-time performance metrics available through dashboards?				
Can the platform be integrated with APIs for custom automation?				
CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT SCORE				

FINAL SCORE

	PROVIDER A	PROVIDER B	PROVIDER C	PROVIDER D
TOTAL DATA CENTRE SCORE				



28 OR GREATER: Premium provider – likely to be an ideal partner to meet your organisational objective.



24 TO 27: Solid provider – some risks may be present requiring due diligence.



BELOW 24: High-risk provider – evaluate alternatives carefully.



SETTING THE STANDARD FOR INTERCONNECTION EXCELLENCE

In today's digital landscape, interconnection excellence is the foundation of agility and long-term success. Choosing the right data centre provider can help your organisation scale, innovate and operate with maximum efficiency. Here's how NEXTDC supports your need to seamlessly interconnect all your data sources, operational locations, data centres, people and partners:

1. Fit for purpose – Expert network design for seamless connectivity

Our data centres provide access to highly experienced solution architects and NetOps specialists who design tailored interconnection strategies that optimise performance and simplify management. Whether you need to build geo-diverse pathways or support complex hybrid environments, their team ensures your infrastructure is future-ready.

2. Operational certainty – Resilience and redundancy you can count on

NEXTDC infrastructure guarantees 100% uptime through fully geo-diverse, self-healing pathways that automatically reroute traffic in case of failures. With robust disaster recovery (DR) solutions and automated failover, your business stays operational even in the face of disruptions.

3. Collaborate to innovate – Seamless access to Australia's richest ecosystem

At NEXTDC, interconnectivity means effortless access to a vast digital ecosystem of cloud platforms, carriers and service providers. Our carrier-neutral facilities provide direct, low-latency connections to AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud and more – empowering you to collaborate and innovate on multi-cloud and hybrid cloud architecture without boundaries.

4. Future-ready – Unmatched flexibility and agility

With NEXTDC's on-demand provisioning, you can scale interconnections as needed, with bandwidth options of up to 100Gbps. Whether supporting a multi-cloud strategy or enabling real-time workload migration, our solutions provide the flexibility to adapt as your business grows.

5. Risk mitigation – Private, secure connections between markets

NEXTDC's private, dedicated circuits offer low-latency, high-reliability connections across key markets and ecosystems including direct access to international subsea cables and third-party-hosted availability zones. This ensures real-time performance for data-intensive applications like AI and high-performance computing, while protecting sensitive workloads from external threats.

6. Doing more with less – Cost savings and complexity reduction

By eliminating unnecessary expenses with flat-fee cross-connects and pay-as-you-go services, NEXTDC helps you control costs and reduce complexity. Our OpEx-based pricing model minimises upfront capital expenses and keeps your operational costs predictable as your connectivity needs evolve.

7. Single-pane network visibility – Centralised management for complete control

The ONEDC platform offers single-pane-of-glass visibility and control over all your interconnections. The intuitive interface provides real-time performance data and integrates seamlessly with APIs, giving you the flexibility to customise workflows and automate network management.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Selecting the right data centre partner for exceptional interconnection capabilities can future-proof your organisation. NEXTDC's comprehensive solutions are designed to support your resilience, growth and innovation.

To learn more or schedule a consultation, visit www.nextdc.com or contact a NEXTDC representative today.

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