

Commercial Real Estate

State approves incentive for \$1.1B data center expansion before pausing tax break



Cologix is set to receive a state incentive for its \$1.1 billion data center expansion in Orange Township and Johnstown. Pictured is the company's Col4 data center campus near Worthington. COURTESY COLOGIX



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Cologix, which plans to invest an initial \$1.1 billion in Orange Township and Johnstown, was approved for a data center sales tax exemption before the state pauses incentives for these projects.

The Denver-based company's colocation data center campuses are set to create 90 jobs and add 72 megawatts of power capacity over two phases, according to the Ohio Department of Development.

The campuses will act as shared data centers where multiple businesses can house, connect and manage their technology without building facilities of their own, according to a press release from the Columbus Partnership.

The expansion was announced in conjunction with a 10-year, 50% data center sales tax exemption for Cologix approved Monday by the Ohio Tax Credit Authority. The exemption is to incentivize the investment and creation of \$10 million in annual payroll as a result of the company's projects.

The state will require Cologix to maintain operations within the project sites for at least 13 years, according to a scope of work document provided by the Department of Development.

The estimated \$42.3 million incentive is the last data center sales tax exemption that will be considered by the tax credit authority, at least for the time being.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine last week announced [a pause on the consideration of new data center tax exemption requests](#) while the Ohio General Assembly's Joint Data Center Committee studies growth of the centers in Ohio.

Related: [Business leaders warn DeWine's data center tax pause could hinder Ohio investment](#)

The Johnstown project appears to be tied to the 154 acres Cologix acquired at 12017 Duncan Plains Road for an AI-ready data center campus. [The proposed \\$7 billion development](#) is projected to span 2 million square feet across eight facilities. Another site is to be located at 11719 Duncan Plains Road, [according to the company's website](#).

The address for the Orange Township facility is listed on its website as 6787 Green Meadows Dr.

Cologix opened its first Central Ohio data center more than a decade ago and currently operates four Central Ohio data center campuses on Scherers Court and

Alta View Boulevard in the Worthington area.

“This expansion reflects the continued demand we’re seeing from customers in Ohio who rely on secure, high-performance digital infrastructure,” Cologix President Dawn Smith said in the release. “We’re scaling to support our Columbus region customers while continuing to invest in the Ohio communities where we operate.”

The Cologix facilities use closed-loop cooling systems that minimize water and energy usage, according to the company.

The expansion comes after [Silicon Valley unicorn Lambda](#) installed its latest hardware inside a Cologix data center in Columbus in 2025.

The installation, including the newest [Nvidia](#) chips, cost "hundreds of millions," said Robert Brooks IV, Lambda co-founder and vice president of revenue. Lambda designs the clusters and software that runs them.

The Cologix partnership was essential to entering the Columbus market, Brooks said.

"We see that network, that interconnection, as a true value for AI," he said.