Data Center Decommissioning
Proven Across 22 Global Data Centers



Client Challenge

A global cloud infrastructure provider needed an experienced partner to decommission legacy data centers as they transitioned to their next-generation cloud architecture.

Many of the data centers had immovable exit dates due to lease expirations. SLS coordinated closely with the client and facility operators, mobilized qualified teams across multiple countries and, in some cases, executed projects back-to-back. Missing a deadline could delay site turnover and expose the client to additional occupancy costs.

The client required more than equipment removal. Every project demanded disciplined asset tracking, secure media handling, documented chain of custody, safe rack removal and complete clearance of the data hall.

SLS Approach

SLS developed and executed an 18-month global decommissioning program spanning 22 data centers in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Abu Dhabi, Canada and the United States.

After initial site preparation at each location, SLS implemented a controlled, repeatable process that included:

- Electronic data capture of inventory cabinets, servers and data-bearing devices
- Establishing parent-child relationships between racks, devices and drives
- Recording serial numbers and reconciling equipment counts
- Removing, scanning, numbering and securely storing hard drives
- Degaussing magnetic drives and then coordinating on-site shredding using SLS shred trucks, for magnetic and solid-state drive destruction



- Unbolting racks and removing cabling
- Packing and securely shipping servers, switches and recoverable components
- Recovering parts for resale and returning an agreed share of proceeds to the client
- Directing empty chassis and racks to approved metal recyclers
- Returning each data center space as clean, cleared white space, ready for its next use

This standardized process gave the client asset-level visibility from the rack through final disposition while supporting consistent execution across countries, facilities and project teams.

Results at Scale

Over the course of the 18-month program, from February 2024 through July 2025, SLS:

- Completed decommissioning work across 22 data centers
- Managed approximately 160,000 devices
- Decommissioned approximately 30,000 servers and network devices
- Executed projects across five countries



Business Impact

By combining project management, technical deinstallation, asset tracking, data security, logistics, value recovery and recycling within one controlled program, SLS helped the client:

- Meet restrictive data center exit schedules
- Maintain equipment accountability
- Protect data-bearing assets from removal through final destruction
- Coordinate execution across facilities, countries and service providers
- Recover value from reusable servers, components and parts.
- Avoid unnecessary handoffs between deinstallation, logistics and disposition vendors
- Apply a repeatable process across a high-volume global portfolio

The result was more than equipment removal. SLS provided the technical execution, controls and operational scale required to retire hyperscale infrastructure securely and predictably.

Key Takeaway

SLS delivers the technical rigor, chain-of-custody controls and global execution capability required to decommission hyperscale data center infrastructure securely, efficiently and at scale.