

Long-Lead Equipment Report: UK, Ireland and northern Europe, Q4 2026

**Transformers, HV/MV switchgear, standby generators, UPS and
batteries, data-centre cooling**

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with the [Critical Supply Brief](#)

A source-backed guide for data-centre developers, EPCs and MEP and power consultants.

Executive summary

Public lead-time evidence for the five equipment groups that set the programme on most data-centre, grid and critical-power projects in the UK, Ireland and northern Europe. Every figure has a named source and date. Where sources disagree we show both; where no public number exists we say so.

Lead times at a glance (Europe unless stated; Linesight Q2-Q4 2026 values are June 2026 forecasts)

Equipment	Typical lead time	Direction into Q4 2026	Sources
Large power transformers (grid, step-up/step-down)	About 2 years on average; 4 to 5 years for some units	Flat to longer	AVK, Jun 2026 ; PTR via CWIEME, Mar 2026 ; IEA, Feb 2025
MV transformers, 2-3 MVA	48 weeks	Easing from a 65-week peak	Linesight, Jun 2026
MV switchgear and RMUs	34-40 weeks (Linesight); about a year (AVK)	Easing slightly	Linesight, Jun 2026; AVK, Jun 2026
HV switchgear, 72 kV and above	No reliable public European figure. US HV circuit breakers: 125 weeks	Longer (US data)	Wood Mackenzie via Reuters, Jul 2026
Diesel generators, 2-3 MW	64 weeks	Slightly shorter than the 2025 peak of 70	Linesight, Jun 2026
Diesel generators, above 3 MW	105 weeks (Linesight); about 80 weeks average (AVK); new large Cummins gensets second half of 2028	Longer	Linesight; AVK; Cummins Q2 2026 call, Aug 2026
UPS, 1.0-1.6 MW	32 weeks	Stable since late 2024	Linesight, Jun 2026
UPS batteries, 1.0-1.6 MW	26-28 weeks	Easing	Linesight, Jun 2026
Air-cooled chillers, 1.2-1.4 MW	36-40 weeks	Easing from 42 weeks	Linesight, Jun 2026
CRAH units, 100-150 kW	26 weeks	Stable	Linesight, Jun 2026
Coolant distribution units (liquid cooling)	No reliable neutral public figure for Europe	Unknown	See gaps

Five findings

- Generators are now the longest item in the data-hall package.** Linesight has European diesel sets above 3 MW at 105 weeks for 2026, up from 60 weeks in Q1 2024. Cummins says a new large genset ordered now ships in the second half of 2028.
- Grid-scale transformers remain the slowest item overall.** European estimates run from "almost two years" on average ([AVK, June 2026](#)) to 48-60 months ([PTR, March 2026](#)). The [IEA](#) found they had almost doubled since 2021.
- Smaller, more standard equipment is easing.** MV transformers, MV switchgear, UPS, batteries and chillers are flat or falling in Linesight's 2026 forecasts. [Uptime Institute](#) reported fewer supply-chain disruptions in 2025 than in any of the previous five years.
- Grid access policy is reshaping demand.** NESO's reformed GB queue has about 13 GW of firm demand connecting before 2030 and 86 GW in 2030-35 ([DCD, December 2025](#)). Ireland's [CRU decision](#) requires data centres above 10 MVA to bring dispatchable on-site or nearby generation or storage.
- Materials and regulation add new variables.** EU provisional safeguards on grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES) and transformer cores apply from 25 September 2026 to 26 February 2027 ([SteelOrbis](#)). Since 1 January 2026, the EU has banned putting into operation new F-gas MV switchgear up to 24 kV, with limited exceptions ([ESB Networks](#)).

What to do this quarter

- Order grid transformers and large generators once the grid offer and site are credible, before design freeze. Use conditional or reservation orders where offered.
- Treat MV switchgear, UPS, batteries and chillers as normal long-lead items (roughly 6 to 12 months), and confirm SF6-free MV switchgear availability for EU sites.
- Secure generator capacity through a framework or an integrator with factory allocation, and price a smaller-unit alternative.
- Ask every bidder for the named factory, the production slot date and the long-lead inputs behind their quoted lead time.

How to read this report

- **Scope.** The report covers the UK, Ireland and northern Europe. The most detailed public regional series is Linesight's European lead-time dataset. Where a figure is US-only, we label it and include it for direction only.
- **Units.** Lead times are order-to-delivery unless the source says otherwise. They vary with rating, specification, factory and the buyer's position in the queue.
- **Supplier shortlists.** Every named supplier has a live profile on Find Critical Supply, checked against the [sitemap](#) on 25 September 2026. Inclusion is not an endorsement. The directory does not establish a supplier's capacity, availability, lead time or pricing. Confirm those directly.

1. Transformers

1a. Large power and grid transformers

Lead times

Figure	Scope	Source and date
"Almost two years" average, sometimes much longer	HV step-up/step-down transformers, Europe	AVK, 22 Jun 2026
48–60 months	Large power transformers, Europe	PTR Inc via CWIEME Berlin, 17 Mar 2026
Up to 4 years; almost doubled since 2021	Large power transformers, global industry survey	IEA, Building the Future Transmission Grid, 25 Feb 2025
Up to 4 years without a reservation	Utilities buying transformers (Hitachi Energy CEO)	DCD, 6 Nov 2024
128 weeks average (power transformers); 144 weeks (GSUs)	US, Wood Mackenzie Q2 2025 survey	POWER, 2026
Above 160 weeks (GSUs, Q1 2026), from 143 weeks in 2024	US, Wood Mackenzie	Reuters, 9 Jul 2026

The European sources conflict. AVK, a UK and European critical-power integrator, puts the average at almost two years. PTR, a market-research firm, puts large units at 48 to 60 months. The gap probably reflects unit size and scope: AVK describes step-up/step-down transformers for data-centre power schemes, while PTR's figure covers the largest custom grid units. Plan on two years as a floor for any 33 kV-and-above unit and confirm with the factory.

Direction. Flat to longer. Wood Mackenzie reports US GSU lead times still rising into 2026. We found no European series showing large-unit lead times falling.

What's driving it

- **Demand from grids and data centres at the same time.** Siemens Energy's Grid Technologies orders rose 28% year on year in its fiscal Q3 2026, with a book-to-bill of 1.48 and a record €51bn backlog. The company attributed most of the growth to transformers, including data-centre projects, with Europe and North America leading ([Siemens Energy earnings release, 5 Aug 2026](#)).

- **Europe's factories also serve export markets.** PTR reports that Europe supplies about 40% of US large power transformer imports, while European demand is forecast to grow 12.7% a year from 2024 to 2030 ([PTR, March 2026](#)).
- **Network operators book slots first.** Opna, a London-based critical-power supply company, argues that network operators with multi-year frameworks get priority, leaving one-off data-centre orders at the back of the book ([DCNN, 7 Jul 2026](#)). This is one company's view, but it matches National Grid's own procurement practice (see switchgear below).
- **Materials and components.** The IEA cites price rises in copper, aluminium and GOES. PTR names HV bushings and on-load tap changers as recurring build bottlenecks. From 25 September 2026 the EU applies provisional quotas and minimum-price duties on imported GOES, plus a €1,140/tonne duty on cores inside imported transformers, until 26 February 2027 ([SteelOrbis, 21 Sep 2026](#); [Regulation \(EU\) 2026/2133](#)). The measures cover the EU, so they apply in Ireland and on the continent. The effect on transformer imports into GB is not yet clear.
- **Factory capacity is growing slowly.** Hitachi Energy announced a further \$1.5bn for transformer capacity by 2027, including about \$180m for a new factory in the Vaasa region of Finland ([Hitachi Energy, 23 Apr 2024](#)). PTR expects global large-transformer factory utilisation to rise from about 70% to 80% by 2030.

1b. Distribution and MV transformers

Lead times

Figure	Scope	Source and date
48 weeks (Q2–Q4 2026 forecast)	MV transformers 2,000–3,000 kVA, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
65 weeks peak (Q3 2024 to Q1 2025); 52 weeks Q4 2025	Same series	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
Peaked above 100 weeks in 2023, since eased	Distribution transformers, global	PTR via CWIEME, 17 Mar 2026

Direction. Easing. Linesight's European series fell from 65 weeks to a forecast 48 weeks. Linesight still ranks MV transformers among the steepest cost risers in Europe.

Drivers. The same GOES and copper inputs as large units, and the same EU safeguard. Distribution units are higher-volume and less customised, which is why they have recovered faster ([PTR](#)).

Transformer suppliers in the FCS directory

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
Hitachi Energy	Its UK and Ireland data-centre pages cover transformers from utility-grid primary supply to secondary substation units; it is building a new transformer factory in Finland.
BRUSH Transformers	UK manufacturer whose data-centre scope lists power transformers, HV infrastructure design and build, and commissioning.
Wilson Power Solutions	UK manufacturer of power and distribution transformers; documents a continuous-emergency-rated transformer supply for a Hemel Hempstead data centre .
Winder Power	UK designer and manufacturer of distribution, power and grid transformers , with testing and site services.
SGB-SMIT Group	Multinational manufacturer of large and medium power, distribution and dry-type transformers and compact substations.
Bowers Electricals	UK supplier of new and refurbished distribution, power and cast-resin transformers and package substations; refurbished units are one route around new-build queues.

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
Slaters Electricals	UK supplier of new, refurbished and hire transformers and switchgear , which can cover temporary or interim supply.

Buyer actions: transformers

- **Order grid-connection transformers at grid-offer stage.** With two to five years quoted, a transformer ordered after design freeze will usually miss energisation. Place a reservation or conditional purchase order once the connection offer and site are secure. AVK reports that conditional purchase orders are becoming standard for locking delivery windows.
- **Standardise the specification.** Fix voltage ratio, vector group, impedance, cooling class and losses early, and accept a manufacturer's standard design where the engineer of record allows. Every bespoke change adds engineering and test time.
- **Ask for the factory and the slot.** Require each bidder to name the production site, test-bay slot and the source of GOES, bushings and tap changers.
- **Check GOES exposure.** For EU deliveries, ask whether the quote assumes imported cores and how the safeguard duty is handled in the price.
- **Split the order.** For multi-phase campuses, dual-source the MV transformers (easing) from the grid transformers (still tight), so one late unit does not hold the whole scheme.
- **Keep a fallback.** Price a refurbished or hire unit for temporary supply where the DNO or TSO will accept it.

2. HV/MV switchgear

Lead times

Figure	Scope	Source and date
40 weeks (Q4 2025 to Q4 2026 forecast); 50 weeks in early 2024	MV switchgear 1,000–2,000 A, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
34 weeks; 40 weeks in early 2024	Ring main units under 800 A, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
40 weeks; 42 weeks through 2024–25	LV switchgear 3,200–4,000 A, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
"Average lead times of a year"	Switchgear for data-centre power, Europe	AVK, 22 Jun 2026
125 weeks (H2 2025), from 77 weeks in 2023	HV circuit breakers, US	Wood Mackenzie via Reuters, 9 Jul 2026

Linesight (34–40 weeks) and AVK (about 52 weeks) differ by roughly three months. AVK's figure is an unsegmented average across switchgear; Linesight splits it by rating. We found **no public European lead-time series for HV gas-insulated switchgear at 132 kV and above**. The US breaker figure is the closest public proxy, and Wood Mackenzie expects circuit breakers and switchgear to face larger market deficits than transformers.

Direction. Easing slightly at MV and LV. At HV, the only public data (US) shows lead times rising.

What's driving it

- **SF6-free transition in the EU.** Since 1 January 2026, the EU F-gas Regulation has banned putting into operation new MV switchgear up to 24 kV that uses fluorinated gases, unless

ordered before 11 March 2024 or covered by a narrow derogation ([ESB Networks](#); [European Commission switchgear FAQ](#)). This applies in Ireland and the EU. GB has its own F-gas regime, which buyers should check separately.

- **Transmission owners reserving capacity.** National Grid's 2024 switchgear framework, valued at about £3.67bn across UK and US lots, allowed National Grid to make "a contractually binding advance commitment to reserve manufacturing capacity" for non-SF6 GIS at 145 kV, 300 kV and 420 kV ([Find a Tender notice 2024/S 000-031604, 2 Oct 2024](#)). Private buyers compete for the same factories.
- **Data-centre demand.** Wood Mackenzie says data-centre construction is driving demand for circuit breakers and switchgear, and that data centres could account for up to 40% of the US electrical-equipment market, up from under 2% in 2020 ([Reuters, July 2026](#)).
- **Prefabrication.** Linesight notes that integrated electrical skids and power modules take longer than standalone equipment because they depend on several component supply chains.

Switchgear suppliers in the FCS directory

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
Lucy Electric	UK-headquartered maker of primary switchgear , ring main units and distribution automation .
BRUSH Transformers	Lists CRYNO 12 kV indoor AC switchgear in its data-centre scope alongside transformers.
Bowers Electricals	Supplies new and refurbished HV and LV switchgear with installation and maintenance.
AVK	Standby-power scope includes LV and MV switchgear; also builds modular "PowerPod" switchrooms (AVK, June 2026).
Vertiv	EMEA portfolio includes power distribution, switchgear and busway.
TES Group	UK manufacturer of LV switchgear , packaged substations and PDUs for data centres.
AF Switchgear	Nottinghamshire designer and tester of bespoke LV distribution systems for data centres .
Linxon	AtkinsRéalis and Hitachi Energy joint venture delivering substation EPC , with UK transmission-project teams.

Buyer actions: switchgear

- **Order MV switchgear at least 12 months before energisation** and HV switchgear at the same point as the grid transformer.
- **Specify SF6-free for EU sites** (up to 24 kV now; higher voltages follow later under the same regulation). Ask the bidder to confirm the insulating medium and type-test status in writing.
- **Check network-operator type registration.** Equipment connecting to National Grid's system must be type-registered by National Grid. Unregistered products add months.
- **Consider packaged switchrooms carefully.** Prefabricated power modules save site time but carry longer factory lead times. Compare the full programme, not only the delivery date.
- **Buy the LV boards separately where possible.** UK LV board builders can often deliver faster than integrated packages. Keep them off the critical path of the MV/HV order.

3. Standby generators

Figure	Scope	Source and date
105 weeks (Q1-Q4 2026); 60 weeks in Q1 2024	Diesel generators above 3 MW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
64 weeks (2026); peak 70 weeks in 2025	Diesel generators 2-3 MW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
"Over 100+ weeks in the Americas and Europe"	Generators, global overview	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
"Around 80 weeks" average	Generators, Europe	AVK, 22 Jun 2026
New 95-litre gensets available "second half of 2028"	Cummins large diesel gensets, global	Cummins Q2 2026 earnings call, Aug 2026

AVK's 80-week average sits between Linesight's 64 weeks (2-3 MW) and 105 weeks (above 3 MW), so the two sources are consistent once size is accounted for. Cummins' statement implies about two years for its largest units.

Direction. Longer for the largest sets. Linesight's above-3 MW series has risen every year since 2024.

What's driving it

- **Hyperscale demand and factory limits.** Cummins said its 2026 growth "will continue to be constrained by capacity" and that some customers are taking smaller gensets because large ones are sold out. It signed a multi-year agreement with a global hyperscaler covering "several gigawatts" of future genset demand ([Cummins, Aug 2026](#)).
- **Rolls-Royce mtu growth.** Rolls-Royce reported stronger demand for backup power and for Series 4000 gas engines as prime power at data centres, and raised its power-generation original-equipment revenue growth expectation to 25% a year to 2030 ([Rolls-Royce half-year results, 30 Jul 2026](#)). A new plant in Friedrichshafen will assemble Series 4000 engines from 2028 ([Rolls-Royce Power Systems, 2026](#)).
- **Ireland's connection policy.** The CRU's Large Energy Users decision requires data centres of 1-10 MVA to act as autoproducers sized to 100% of their import capacity, and those above 10 MVA to provide new dispatchable on-site or nearby generation or storage that participates in the wholesale market ([William Fry, 15 Dec 2025](#); [CRU decision paper CRU2025236](#)). Data centres used 23% of Ireland's metered electricity in 2025 ([CSO](#)).
- **Long GB connection dates.** DCD reports average GB connection waits of five to ten years for data centres, which pushes some projects towards on-site or bridging generation ([DCD, 9 Dec 2025](#)).

Generator suppliers in the FCS directory

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
Rolls-Royce mtu	Markets Series 4000 generator sets for data centres in the UK and Europe; expanding engine assembly capacity.
Cummins Power Generation	Supplies QSK95 and Centum Series gensets for data centres; states large-unit availability from H2 2028.
Caterpillar Electric Power	Offers diesel, gas and mobile generator sets plus temporary bridging power through a global dealer network.
AVK	UK and European standby-power integrator that reports a dedicated Rolls-Royce mtu factory allocation for hundreds of engines.
Edina	UK and Ireland supplier of standby and baseload gas-engine generation, CHP and battery hybrids for data centres; relevant to Ireland's on-site generation rule.

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
DTGen	UK and Ireland generator design, installation, commissioning and temporary power for data centres.
Vital Power	UK supplier of custom data-centre diesel gensets , load-bank testing and fuel management.
Aggreko	Provides temporary and backup power for data-centre construction, commissioning and operations , a fallback if permanent sets arrive late.

Buyer actions: generators

- **Reserve large-genset capacity now for 2028 energisation.** Cummins is quoting H2 2028 for new large units. Anything needed before then has to come from existing allocations.
- **Buy through allocation holders.** Integrators with standing OEM allocations (AVK describes one publicly) can sometimes deliver earlier than a direct one-off order. Ask for evidence of the allocation and whether your project is inside it.
- **Design for two unit sizes.** Cummins reports customers switching to smaller sets because large ones are sold out. Ask the electrical designer to test a 2–3 MW option alongside the preferred 3 MW-plus layout.
- **Plan for fuel and emissions early.** HVO compatibility, emissions permits and acoustic enclosures have their own lead times. Put them in the same order package.
- **For Irish sites, size generation to the CRU rules** before choosing engines, since the policy sets how much dispatchable capacity you need.
- **Line up temporary power** for commissioning and for any gap between building completion and permanent sets.

4. UPS and batteries

Lead times

Figure	Scope	Source and date
32 weeks (Q4 2024 to Q4 2026 forecast); 35 weeks early 2024	UPS 1,000–1,600 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
26 weeks (Q3–Q4 2026 forecast); 28 weeks in 2025; 30 weeks in 2024	Batteries 1,000–1,600 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
32 weeks	Static transfer switches above 1,800 A, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026

We found only one regional public series for UPS and batteries. No manufacturer we reviewed published a European UPS lead time.

Direction. Stable for UPS and easing for batteries. Linesight also reports that UPS and STS costs have risen more slowly than generators, MV transformers and switchgear, which it attributes to UPS being more standardised.

What's driving it

- **Standard, modular products.** Modular UPS frames and standard battery cabinets are built in higher volumes than bespoke power equipment, and several makers compete in Europe.
- **Integrated power modules are slower.** Linesight notes that electrical skids and prefabricated power rooms, which often contain the UPS, carry longer lead times than standalone units.

- **Vendor capacity additions.** Vertiv said on its Q2 2026 call that "additional capacity is online globally" and that more would come available in the second half ([Vertiv Q2 2026 call, 29 Jul 2026](#)).

UPS and battery suppliers in the FCS directory

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
Schneider Electric	UK portfolio includes Galaxy three-phase UPS and prefabricated data-centre systems .
Eaton	Supplies data-centre backup-power systems and power-management software in the UK.
Vertiv	EMEA three-phase UPS range plus battery storage and power distribution.
Riello UPS	Standalone, parallel and modular data-centre UPS with UK design and servicing.
Socomec	UK high-power and modular UPS, static transfer switches and energy storage .
Piller Power Systems	Rotary, modular static and electrically coupled UPS for colocation and enterprise data centres.
EnerSys	Lithium and lead-acid UPS batteries and generator-start batteries .
Dale Power Solutions	UK UPS design, manufacture and servicing , plus generators and battery storage.

Buyer actions: UPS and batteries

- **Order UPS about 9 months before installation.** Linesight's 32 weeks leaves limited float for design changes or factory witness testing.
- **Use frame agreements for repeat halls.** Fixing a UPS platform across phases lets the supplier hold stock and shortens later call-offs.
- **Decide battery chemistry early.** Lithium-ion and VRLA carry different fire, ventilation and footprint requirements. Changing chemistry late forces redesign and can reset the lead time.
- **Keep UPS out of prefabricated skids if programme is critical.** Buying the UPS standalone can be faster than a fully integrated module.
- **Dual-qualify two UPS vendors** at design stage where the architecture allows, so a delayed factory does not stop the hall.

5. Data-centre cooling

Lead times

Figure	Scope	Source and date
36 weeks (Q3-Q4 2026 forecast); 42 weeks through 2025	Air-cooled chillers 1,200–1,400 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
34 weeks (flat since Q2 2025)	Water-cooled chillers 2,700–3,000 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
26 weeks (range 23–28 since 2024)	CRAH 100–150 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
32 weeks; 38 weeks through 2025	Fan walls above 400 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
28 weeks	Cooling towers under 4,000 kW, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026
38 weeks; 32 weeks in 2024	Mechanical modules, Europe	Linesight, 24 Jun 2026

Figure	Scope	Source and date
Coolant distribution units: no reliable neutral public figure	Liquid cooling, Europe	Gap

Direction. Easing for chillers, CRAHs and fan walls. Modular mechanical plant is the exception: it has lengthened since 2024, which Linesight attributes to factory integration and skilled-labour demands.

What's driving it

- **More factory capacity.** Linesight credits diversified manufacturing and steadier logistics for the modest improvement. Vertiv cited "chiller capacity increases in EMEA" on its Q2 2026 call (29 Jul 2026).
- **The move to liquid cooling.** High-density AI halls need CDUs, secondary fluid networks and higher-temperature chillers. German supplier technotrans says it has moved to four CDU production lines and that its data-centre order intake in the first half of 2026 exceeded all of 2025 (technotrans, 2026). technotrans is not in the FCS directory; we cite it for market direction only.
- **Prefabrication.** Demand for factory-built mechanical modules has risen faster than fabrication capacity, according to Linesight.

Cooling suppliers in the FCS directory

Supplier	Why relevant (from public sources)
Airedale by Modine	UK-engineered data-centre chillers, precision cooling and liquid-cooling infrastructure.
STULZ UK	Precision air conditioning, liquid and free cooling with UK service contracts.
Munters	Air, liquid and hybrid cooling, including chillers, CDUs, CRAH/CRAC fan walls and dry coolers.
Vertiv	EMEA chillers, heat rejection, room and rack cooling, and liquid-cooling systems; adding chiller capacity in EMEA.
Excool	UK-designed and manufactured air, hybrid and liquid cooling, including the Excool CDU.
Star Refrigeration	UK packaged and free-cooling thermosyphon chillers with turnkey delivery.
Johnson Controls	Air- and water-cooled chillers, air handlers and building controls for data centres.
Aqua Cooling	UK CDUs with leak prevention, CRAC/CRAH, rear-door and in-row cooling.

Buyer actions: cooling

- **Order chillers 9 to 10 months ahead** of mechanical installation, based on Linesight's 34–40 week range.
- **Fix the liquid-cooling interface first.** Agree supply temperature, flow, fluid and filtration with the IT tenant before ordering CDUs. Changing them after order means rework and a new slot.
- **Ask CDU bidders for evidence.** With no neutral public benchmark, ask each bidder for recent delivery dates on comparable orders and the location of the production line.
- **Weigh modular plant against the programme.** Mechanical modules take about 38 weeks at the factory but save site labour. Compare both routes on total time to commissioning.
- **Dual-source heat rejection** across two chiller vendors on large campuses, with a common controls standard.

6. Across all categories

- **Start procurement at grid-offer stage.** Linesight reports that long-lead equipment now makes up about 35–40% of capital cost on mission-critical projects and that the critical path runs through power, procurement and labour rather than site works ([Linesight, June 2026](#)).
 - **Expect full factories.** Linesight's Q1 2026 survey found 86% of suppliers working at full capacity ([Linesight Europe report, June 2026](#)).
 - **Use frameworks and early payments.** Reuters reports utilities and developers pre-paying, offering better payment terms and signing long-term agreements to win earlier slots ([Reuters, July 2026](#)). Private buyers can form multi-site frameworks to get similar visibility.
 - **Diversify by region.** Developers quoted by Reuters are sourcing from several regions so that one factory or trade measure does not stop the project. Check the EU GOES safeguard and any tariff exposure before choosing an import route.
 - **Record the basis of every quoted lead time.** Named factory, slot date, design-freeze assumption, witness tests and transport. A lead time without these is an estimate.
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Methodology and sources

Approach. We reviewed public sources dated between November 2024 and 25 September 2026: manufacturer earnings releases and calls (Cummins, Rolls-Royce, Siemens Energy, Vertiv), manufacturer and integrator statements (Hitachi Energy, AVK), consultancy data (Linesight, Wood Mackenzie, PTR, Uptime Institute), trade press (DCD, DCNN, POWER, Reuters, SteelOrbis), and official publications (IEA, NESO via DCD, CRU, CSO, EU regulation, National Grid tender notice). Search used web search, direct fetches and Google results via Treg.

Main dataset. The Linesight European lead-time figures come from the interactive chart in Linesight's Industry trends and supply chain dynamics 2026: Europe (published 24 June 2026), which draws on Linesight market intelligence and a Q2 2026 supplier survey. Values for Q1 2026 are Linesight estimates and Q2–Q4 2026 are forecasts. Ratings are those stated by Linesight.

Rules. Every figure has a source and date in the tables above and in the accompanying sources.csv. Where two sources disagree, we show both. US-only figures are labelled and used for direction only. We did not create or interpolate any number.

Supplier selection. We extracted all 334 supplier records from the [Find Critical Supply sitemap](#) and selected 7–8 per category with UK, Irish or European coverage or a clear data-centre product line. Each profile URL returned HTTP 200 on 25 September 2026. The one-line reasons summarise first-party supplier pages. Inclusion is not an endorsement, and the directory does not establish capacity, lead time or pricing.

Gaps where public data was thin

- **HV switchgear (132 kV and above) in Europe.** No public lead-time series found. The only public figure is US HV circuit breakers (Wood Mackenzie).
- **Large transformers in Europe.** Only two region-specific figures (AVK, PTR), which disagree. No quarterly European series equivalent to Wood Mackenzie's US survey is public.
- **UK and Ireland specifically.** No public source breaks lead times down for GB or Ireland separately from Europe.
- **UPS.** One public series (Linesight). No manufacturer published European UPS lead times.
- **Liquid cooling and CDUs.** No neutral public lead-time figure for Europe. The figures we found came from vendor blogs and resellers, which we excluded.
- **Direction after Q4 2026.** Linesight's forecasts run to Q4 2026 only.

Use the directory and get the Brief

[Find Critical Supply](#) is a source-backed directory of about 334 suppliers across 12 procurement categories for data centres, grid and HV, critical power and cooling. Each profile shows the supplier's published scope, marketed coverage and the pages we checked. Start with [Transformers & Switchgear](#), [UPS](#), [Generators & Critical Power](#), [Cooling](#), [Liquid Cooling & Water](#) and [Grid Connections & High Voltage](#).

The [Critical Supply Brief](#) is free and arrives on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It tracks lead times, supplier changes and policy that affects critical-infrastructure buyers. We will update this report as new figures are published, and subscribers get the update first.

Suppliers can claim their profile or read about [Verified Supplier](#). Payment never buys ranking, verification or endorsement.

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