

The Munich Public Utilities celebrate one year of its green computing services

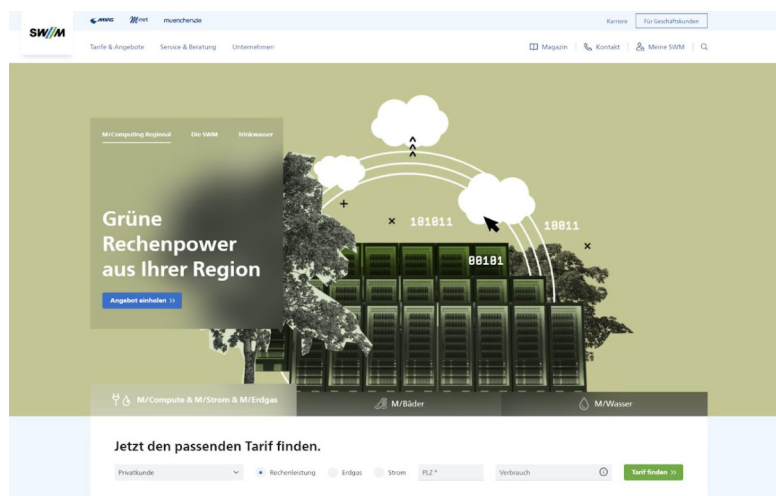
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One year after its initiation, the computing services offered by the Munich Public Utilities (MPU) are adopted by more and more users.

While CO₂ emissions of data centres have tripled since 2015, the demand for fast computing services is still a growing market as ever more businesses migrate their IT systems to the cloud. In the past, the German data centre infrastructure used to lack behind in trying to attract system providers. In addition to that, the City of Munich is eager to achieve the sustainability goals of the Paris Climate Agreement for CO₂ emission reduction.

This was the situation at the beginning of 2024 when the Munich Public Utilities introduced their innovative green computing solution called **M/Computing**.

M/Computing is tackling several of the mentioned problems at once. Firstly, the MPU provides their customers with state-of-the-art computing services powerful enough to meet the current needs of the market. Moreover, the data centres are located in unused spaces inside the City of Munich. For example, in a joint effort with the District Administration Office (DAO), the MPU installed a data centre in the archive of the DAO headquarters, making use of the free space that became available after digitalizing the archive. For the operation of the computing infrastructure M/Computing is exclusively relying on the MPU's M/GreenPower, which is the city-owned ecological electricity network. Finally, M/Computing tackles the need for CO₂ emission reduction within the heating sector as the waste heat produced by the server farms is used by M/Computing to be channeled into the district heating of the city and by this, further reducing the need for gas heating in the network.



M/Compute service offering at SWM's homepage

"When we started using the waste heat from server farms in 2021, we had the goal of reducing our CO₂ emissions and providing our citizens and companies with sustainable local and district heating. We also focused on advancing digitalisation and increasing computing capacity as a city. We were able to achieve the first goal quickly, and now we have been establishing our Munich storage service for a year and are pleased to offer Munich citizens secure and local cloud solutions."

- Nora-Katharina Bonaventura and Johannes Simon-Maisch of MPU's M/Computing

One of the first customers of M/Computing in January 2024 was the Munich-based car manufacturer BMW that needed a high-scale super-fast computing service to finalize its autonomous car initiative. By leveraging on the technology of M/Computing, BMW could quickly and effortlessly test and prove their model without having upfront infrastructure or maintenance cost. In addition, the selection of M/Computing as their computing service of choice made it easy for BMW to fulfill the German regulation of zero CO₂-emission in the car industry which was put into place in November 2023.

"By using M/Computing to extract our autonomous driving model, we didn't have to spend one cent for CO₂ compensation and got the same power, service and quality as with our old system."

- Xavier Mayer, Chief of Autonomous Driving at BMW

Municipal and scientific institutions alike use the storage services from the City of Munich's Data Centre to store their ever-growing volumes of data securely and locally. Public authorities also use cloud storage, as there has been an increased demand for mobile working since 2020. Sensitive data can remain in the hands of the City of Munich, and they *provide all relevant institutions with fast, secure and local access to their data volumes.*

"Finally, as an employee of the Residents' Registration Office, you can also work temporarily in your home office. Using the secure M/Computing allows me to perform administrative tasks from home."

- Kevin Corszik, civil servant

"Digitalisation has finally arrived in the classroom. Thanks to the M/Computing secure data storage, we can access all school documents, set up virtual classrooms and exchange data with colleagues. It's a great relief."

- Sara Sukuria, teacher

