

Colocation Data Centre New Build Readiness Tool



How to use this tool

Score each question **0–2**:

- **0 = Not started / unknown**
- **1 = In progress / partially defined**
- **2 = Completed / defined & agreed**

At the end:

- Add up your score
- Use the **Readiness Bands** to interpret results
- Apply the **Priority Actions** checklist to your next 30 days

Quick Tip: If you score '2', you should be able to point to an artefact (document, diagram, signed acceptance criteria, test record, runbook).

Section A - Executive & Governance Readiness (10 points)

A1. Sponsor & accountability

Do you have a named **Executive Sponsor, Delivery Owner**, and a single accountable 'decision maker' for the programme?

A2. RACI clarity

Is there a RACI that includes **customer, colo provider, fit-out contractors, network providers, and OEMs**?

A3. Scope boundaries

Are scope boundaries explicit (e.g., **where colo responsibility ends and your responsibility begins**)?

A4. Budget + contingency

Do you have a budget that includes contingency for **latent site constraints, lead times, and late design changes**?

A5. Programme cadence

Is there an agreed governance rhythm (weekly delivery, fortnightly steering, risk forum) with escalation paths?

What a '2' looks like - Sponsor named, RACI signed, responsibilities mapped to contract clauses, decision rights defined.

Colocation Data Centre New Build Readiness Tool



Section B - Requirements & Capacity Model (10 points)

B1. IT load assumptions

Is your **IT load** (kW) modelled and agreed (*current plus 24 / 36 month growth*)?

B2. Rack strategy

Do you have a rack strategy (*density, airflow approach, cabling, standard build, expansion plan*)?

B3. Resilience target

Have you defined resilience targets (*availability objectives, N/N+1, dual power, dual path network*)?

B4. Space allocation

Have you confirmed space, cages, meet-me-room approach, and growth space assumptions?

B5. Non-IT loads

Have you included non-IT loads (*security systems, monitoring, lighting, OOB network, crash carts*)?

What a '2' looks like - A signed requirements pack with a capacity plan tied to commercial commitments.

Section C - Commercial & Contractual Readiness (10 points)

C1. Contract alignment

Do the contracts align with your operational needs (*access, change windows, incident response, SLAs*)?

C2. Lead times & procurement

Do you have a procurement plan reflecting lead times for critical items (*switchgear, racks, cross-connects, PDUs*)?

C3. Variations process

Is there a clearly defined change/variation process with cost and schedule impact rules?

C4. Deliverable ownership

Are deliverables explicitly owned (*who produces drawings, test records, O&M manuals, asset register*)?

C5. Handover definition

Is there a formal 'handover definition' (*what must be true for you to accept the facility*)?

Colocation Data Centre New Build Readiness Tool



What a '2' looks like - Commercial terms and delivery obligations mapped into your programme plan and acceptance criteria.

Section D - Design Readiness (10 points)

D1. Single-line diagrams

Do you have approved electrical single-line diagrams reflecting actual delivery?

D2. Mechanical design

Is cooling design agreed (*redundancy model, setpoints, containment strategy, expansion approach*)?

D3. Network design

Is the network architecture complete (*WAN, LAN, internet, carrier diversity, cross-connect strategy*)?

D4. Security design

Is physical security designed (*perimeter, access control, CCTV retention, audit logs, visitor processes*)?

D5. Standards alignment

Are you aligned to relevant standards (*internal standards + colo site rules + safety requirements*)?

What '2' looks like - Approved design pack and buildable drawings and interfaces agreed between all parties.

Section E - Build & Integration Readiness (10 points)

E1. Interface management

Are all interfaces managed (colo → fitout → carriers → OEM → your ops team)?

E2. Build schedule realism

Do you have a schedule that reflects sequencing (*site readiness, install, test, energisation, commissioning*)?

E3. Access & logistics

Are access rules and logistics defined (*deliveries, staging, lifting, out-of-hours constraints*)?

E4. Cabling plan

Do you have structured cabling standards and labelling standards agreed and enforceable?

E5. Installation quality controls

Is there a QA approach (*inspections, checkpoints, photos, sign-offs, defect management*)?

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What a '2' looks like - A 'build control plan' that prevents hidden defects becoming operational failures.

Section F - Power, Cooling & Resilience Verification (10 points)

F1. Power path diversity

Can you demonstrate dual power paths end-to-end (*including rack PDUs and upstream constraints*)?

F2. Cooling under load

Do you have a plan to validate cooling under expected load and failure scenarios?

F3. Monitoring & alarming

Are monitoring points agreed (*power, temp, humidity, leak detection, alarms, escalation*)?

F4. Maintenance & isolation

Can planned maintenance occur without downtime (*isolation points, bypass arrangements, procedures*)?

F5. Failure testing philosophy

Is there an agreed 'what we test vs what we accept by design' approach?

What a '2' looks like - You can evidence resilience, not just assume it.

Section G - Operational Readiness (10 points)

G1. Day-1 operating model

Is the operating model defined (who does what, hours of coverage, escalation chain)?

G2. Runbooks & procedures

Do you have runbooks for standard tasks (*access, remote hands, incident response, change windows*)?

G3. Asset & CMDB

Is there an asset register/CMDB plan including serials, rack positions, circuits, ports?

G4. Spares strategy

Do you have a spares strategy aligned to lead times and criticality?

G5. Training & access approvals

Are teams trained and access approvals ready (*security vetting, inductions, access lists*)?

What a '2' looks like - Your team can operate safely on Day 1 without tribal knowledge.

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Section H - Testing, IST & Acceptance (10 points)

H1. Integrated test plan (IST)

Is there a formal IST plan that includes systems integration, not just component tests?

H2. Acceptance criteria

Are acceptance criteria measurable (pass/fail), documented, and agreed with provider/contractors?

H3. Evidence pack

Will you receive a complete evidence pack (test records, as-built drawings, O&M manuals)?

H4. Defects & retest

Is defects management defined (severity, rectification SLA, retest obligations, sign-off authority)?

H5. Go-live readiness gate

Is there a readiness gate that must be passed before migration starts?

What a '2' looks like - A board-safe acceptance gate with evidence, not confidence.

Section I - Migration Readiness (10 points)

I1. Discovery completeness

Have you completed discovery for servers, network dependencies, circuits, licensing, and external integrations?

I2. Migration waves

Is there a wave plan (prioritisation, rollback, change windows, business involvement)?

I3. Rollback & contingencies

Is rollback defined and proven where possible?

I4. Business readiness

Are business stakeholders aligned (downtime, comms, testing, validation sign-off)?

I5. Cutover governance

Is cutover governance defined (war room roles, incident triage, sign-off checkpoints)?

What a '2' looks like - Migration is treated as a business risk event, not a technical move.

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Section J - Risk & Compliance (10 points)

J1. Risk register quality

Is there a live risk register with owners, mitigations, triggers, and escalation rules?

J2. Safety & compliance

Are safety requirements met (site induction, permits, electrical safety, lifting, PPE)?

J3. Security assurance

Are security controls auditable (logs, access approvals, visitor controls, incident handling)?

J4. Data protection

Are data handling, media transport, and disposal requirements defined (chain-of-custody, encryption)?

J5. Audit trail

Can you evidence decisions and acceptance (for internal audit, insurers, regulators, clients)?

What a '2' looks like - Evidence-based assurance that stands up under scrutiny.

Scoring & Interpretation

Total possible: 100 points

Readiness Bands

- **0–39 - High Risk**
You are exposed to late surprises and uncontrolled changes.
- **40–69 - Moderate Risk**
Good progress, but gaps will create schedule pressure and operational fragility.
- **70–84 - On Track**
Mostly solid—focus on operational readiness and IST evidence quality.
- **85–100 - Strong Readiness**
Your build is likely controllable and defensible through acceptance and cutover.

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Your 30-Day Priority Actions (the 'High-Value 10')

These are intentionally **high leverage** and signal expertise without giving away your full methodology.

1. Confirm **IT load model** + growth assumptions (kW) and lock requirements
2. Validate **contract scope boundaries** and map them into the RACI
3. Define '**handover = accepted**' in measurable criteria
4. Build a **single integrated schedule** across colo/provider/contractors/carriers
5. Create an **interface register** (who hands what to whom, when)
6. Establish an **IST plan** (integrated testing + evidence pack)
7. Define **Day-1 operating model** (coverage, escalation, remote hands rules)
8. Formalise **runbooks** for access, incidents, changes, maintenance
9. Create a **migration wave plan** with rollback and governance
10. Implement a **readiness gate** before any cutover activity

'Risk Signals' - If you see these, act fast

Use these as a small 'expert flex' section (great for credibility).

- 'We'll confirm that later' is being used for **power diversity** or **cooling under load**
- Acceptance is based on **opinions** rather than measurable pass/fail criteria
- Your ops team hasn't seen the site—but migration planning has started
- The design exists, but **as-builts** and **evidence packs** are not contractually enforceable
- Multiple parties assume someone else owns **interface management**

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Want a professional readiness view in 30 minutes?

BARM DC Solutions - Readiness Review Call

We'll review your score, highlight top risks, and give a **prioritised action plan** for the next 30–60 days.

Book a call - contactus@barmdc.com | 1800 959 925

Services: DC build oversight • third-party coordination • IST validation • handover inspection • migration readiness

About BARM DC Solutions

BARM DC Solutions provides specialist delivery assurance for organisations deploying new, refurbishing, or optimising Data Centre environments within colocation facilities.

We operate at the intersection of design, build, and operations ensuring capacity models, power and cooling architectures, network and security designs, and contractual obligations are translated into buildable, testable, and operable outcomes.

Our services span third-party coordination, interface management, installation quality controls, integrated systems testing (IST), and operational handover validation, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based acceptance and Day-1 readiness.

The result is a Data Centre environment that performs as designed, is resilient under failure conditions, and can be confidently migrated into and operated at scale.