

Copper demand growth in data centres

Copper use in the Data Centres (DCs) industry will continue to grow as the market is moving towards large and hyperscale DCs on the one hand, and edge DCs on the other, according to new research commissioned by the International Copper Association (ICA). The research, conducted by BSRIA, found that large and hyperscale DCs is projected to account for 67% demand of copper in the building contained sector by 2030, increasing from 37% in 2018.

Growing demand for the seamless delivery of an increasing number of IoT related services has resulted in a move towards large and hyperscale DCs. They require increased power generation, often from renewable energy sources, effective power distribution and more ICT equipment. These factors will all contribute to an increase in copper demand, including a large share from new construction

The rise of edge computing, and related DC units as a result of the growth of smartphones and real-time applications, as well as smart cities with their smart transport infrastructures, is likely to increase demand further from 543,000 tonnes in 2020 to an estimated 725,000 tonnes in 2030.

Krystyna Dawson, Director at BSRIA, said, “Our global research found a clear link between the trend for larger DCs, increased edge computing demand and increased copper demand. Geographically, North America is the largest market, accounting for 48% of building contained DC copper demand by 2030.”

Colin Bennett, Global Manager, Market Analysis and Outreach at ICA, stated “Thanks to its unique properties, copper facilitates the efficient generation and delivery of electricity, making it an integral part in the development of innovative technologies. This research demonstrates that link in DCs, a sector vital to the future of smart technologies.”

About the International Copper Association (ICA)

ICA brings together the global copper industry to develop and defend markets for copper and to make a positive contribution to society’s sustainable development goals. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., ICA has offices around the world. Copper Alliance® programs and initiatives are executed in nearly 60 countries through its regional offices. For additional information, please visit www.copperalliance.org.

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