# Nscale opens London office as $1bn Norway project advances



British startup Nscale has opened its first physical office in Mayfair, London, marking a key milestone less than a year after launching. The move follows a $155 million (£115.5 million) Series A funding round that underscored strong investor backing for its AI-focused data centre model.

Nscale designs and operates facilities tailored for large-scale AI workloads, using closed-loop direct liquid cooling technology to boost performance and energy efficiency. The company is positioning itself at the forefront of meeting soaring global demand for sustainable, high-capacity AI infrastructure.

“London is a natural anchor for this vision,” said Josh Payne, CEO. “It connects us to customers, partners and policymakers across the continent. It also gives us a base from which to deepen collaboration and accelerate the adoption of AI across industries and public life.”

The company is leading one of Europe’s most ambitious AI infrastructure projects, Stargate Norway, a $1 billion joint venture with Aker ASA and OpenAI. Located near Narvik, the facility will house 100,000 Nvidia GPUs by 2026, powered entirely by renewable hydropower. Initial capacity of 230MW will grow to 520MW, with long-term plans to expand tenfold. Excess heat from the site will be reused to support local low-carbon industries.

OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman has highlighted Stargate Norway’s strategic role in expanding compute resources across Europe, calling it a catalyst for innovation and growth.

In parallel, Nscale has pledged £2 billion to the UK data centre sector, with a major facility due by late 2026. The site will host up to 45,000 NVIDIA GH200 GPUs and create around 750 jobs, reinforcing the government’s ambition to establish sovereign, secure AI infrastructure.

Since its launch in May 2024, Nscale has scaled its pipeline of data centres across Europe and North America from 300MW to 1.3GW, with 120MW of capacity planned for 2025 alone. Its projects combine cutting-edge sustainability practices with advanced AI compute capabilities, aligning with UK and European goals for responsible technology adoption.

Payne said the company was focused on laying “foundations for sustainable AI infrastructure, strong partnerships, and the people who make it possible,” as Nscale positions itself at the heart of Europe’s AI revolution.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.uktech.news/ai/nscale-london-office-20250902> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.uktech.news/ai/nscale-london-office-20250902> - Nscale, a British AI-focused data centre startup, has expanded to its first physical location in Mayfair, London. Launched in May 2024, the company secured a $155 million Series A funding round by the end of the year. Nscale designs and operates infrastructure for AI workloads, specialising in data centre sites that support large-scale AI platforms using closed-loop direct liquid cooling. CEO Josh Payne highlighted Europe's role as a 'proving ground for how technology can serve society' and emphasised London's significance as a hub for technology, finance, and policy. Nscale is also collaborating with OpenAI on the 'Stargate Norway' project, aiming to provide AI compute capacity to businesses and researchers in Europe.
3. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2024/12/09/2993494/0/en/AI-hyperscaler-Nscale-secures-155-million-in-Series-A-funding-to-accelerate-AI-infrastructure-expansion-and-meet-soaring-demand-for-large-scale-compute.html> - Nscale, a British hyperscaler engineered for AI, has raised $155 million in Series A funding to accelerate its expansion across Europe and North America. The funding round was led by Sandton Capital Partners, with participation from Kestrel 0x1, Blue Sky Capital Managers Ltd, and Florence Capital. Nscale develops sustainable AI-ready data centres, deploys massive-scale GPU infrastructure, and delivers high-performance AI cloud services. Since launching from stealth in May 2024, Nscale has experienced insatiable demand for AI infrastructure, quickly growing its pipeline of greenfield data centres across Europe and North America from 300MW to 1.3GW, with 120MW planned for 2025 development. These sites will be designed from the ground up to support large supercluster deployments for global hyperscalers and LLM platforms, leveraging the latest advancements in closed-loop direct liquid cooling to deliver maximum performance and efficiency while minimising environmental impact.
4. <https://www.itpro.com/infrastructure/openai-is-teaming-up-with-nscale-and-aker-to-build-europes-first-ai-gigafactory-stargate-norway-is-set-to-host-100-000-nvidia-gpus-and-will-be-powered-by-renewable-energy> - OpenAI, in collaboration with Nscale and Aker, is launching Europe's first AI gigafactory named 'Stargate Norway,' located in Kvandal near Narvik. This facility marks OpenAI's inaugural data center project in Europe as part of its 'OpenAI for Countries' initiative. The site will host 100,000 Nvidia GPUs by the end of 2026 and will be fully powered by renewable hydropower, leveraging the region's abundant clean energy and low electricity costs. Initially delivering 230MW, there are expansion plans of up to 520MW with the potential for tenfold growth based on demand. Stargate Norway will utilize closed-loop, direct-to-chip liquid cooling to enhance efficiency and repurpose excess heat to support local low-carbon businesses. The project is backed by a $1 billion investment for the initial 20MW phase, equally funded by Nscale and Aker. The data center aims to provide scalable, sovereign, and sustainable infrastructure for both public and private sectors across the UK, Nordics, and Northern Europe. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman emphasized the importance of expanding compute capabilities to harness AI's full potential across Europe, positioning Stargate Norway as a catalyst for regional AI-driven innovation and economic growth.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/aker-nscale-openai-plan-1-bln-norway-ai-facility-2025-07-31/> - Aker ASA announced a partnership with Nscale Global Holdings and OpenAI to construct a $1 billion artificial intelligence facility in northern Norway, named Stargate Norway. The facility aims to install 100,000 NVIDIA chips by the end of 2026 and will operate entirely on renewable energy. This AI 'gigafactory' will be among the first of its kind in Europe and is situated in a hydropower-rich area. Stargate Norway will be jointly owned by Aker and Nscale through a 50/50 joint venture, with future plans to expand the site's capacity up to tenfold. Nscale CEO Josh Payne emphasized that building sovereign, scalable, and sustainable infrastructure is crucial to maintaining a competitive edge.
6. <https://www.nscale.com/press-releases/ai-hyperscaler-nscale-to-invest-gbp-2-billion-in-the-uk-data-centre-industry> - Nscale has announced plans to invest £2 billion in the UK data centre industry, with the first facility scheduled to be operational in Q4 2026. The UK site will house up to 45,000 of the latest NVIDIA GB200 GPUs and is expected to create 500 jobs during construction and an additional 250 jobs over a three-year period for its operation. The investment aims to support the UK's ambition to become a global leader in AI infrastructure by delivering a full stack of AI technologies and services, providing essential UK sovereign, secure, and private AI computing infrastructure for industries, research institutions, and enterprises.
7. <https://www.nscale.com/blog/stargate-norway-laying-the-foundation-for-the-future-of-ai> - Nscale, in collaboration with Aker ASA and OpenAI, is developing Stargate Norway, a 100,000 NVIDIA GPU AI gigafactory powered by renewable energy in Northern Norway. The project reflects a commitment to responsible AI growth in Europe, combining Aker's industrial and operational strength with Nscale's expertise in AI infrastructure and energy-efficient data operations. The partnership aims to build more than just a data centre, focusing on creating the foundation for a new era of responsible AI growth in Europe, with an emphasis on local job creation, skills development, and industrial resilience.