A $200 million, six storey data storage centre will be built at Ultimo by Global Switch, creating around 400 construction jobs and 50 full time permanent jobs.

Premier Kristina Keneally today announced the NSW Government has secured Global Switch’s Sydney expansion and given planning approval for the proposed building.

The expansion will make this the largest facility of its type in the southern hemisphere, creating a better business environment and growing Sydney’s role as an economic and IT hub.

Global Switch is the largest wholesale data centre operator outside the United States, providing data storage facilities for local and international business.

Global Switch’s current ‘Sydney 1’ building, located at Harris Street Ultimo, is already Australia’s premier data centre, with around 27,000 m² of floor space.

Global Switch Sydney 2, to be located next to the existing centre, will include six above ground and three below ground levels, providing a further 22,000 m² of floor space.

Industry & Investment NSW assisted Global Switch with its expansion plans, including organising meetings with energy utilities, the City of Sydney and Government agencies.

And the proposal was assessed by the NSW Government’s Department of Planning because of its high capital investment value and location.

“Along with our rapidly growing information economy, demand for data centre space in Sydney is growing,” Ms Keneally said.

“This project will generate millions of dollars of new investment, increase data centre infrastructure capability, and reinforce Sydney’s role as a global financial and IT hub.

“Global Switch is the leading wholesale data centre provider in Asia Pacific and Europe, and I welcome their decision to expand their Sydney facility.

“We worked with Global Switch for a year to secure this decision, and the result is this $200 million investment in Sydney and NSW.”

Treasurer and Minister for State and Regional Development, Eric Roozendaal, said the expansion will help cement Sydney’s growing role as the Asia-Pacific’s business capital.

“This is an economic coup for Sydney and sign of strong business and investor confidence in NSW,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“Global Switch Sydney 2 will help the company retain and expand its existing base of local and international customers.

“The company’s secure and reliable centres are designed to world-class standards, which is why their services are sought and used by major blue chip businesses.
“Global Switch already has a number of domestic and international data centre contracts, including with the Department of Defence and with NBN Co.

“The data centre will accommodate the latest IT technologies in terms of power and cooling, and will meet the highest environmental rating for any data centre in the world.

“Global Switch intends to promote its new Sydney 2 data centre as a showcase facility in its global portfolio.”

Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, said the building has a range of environmentally sustainable design features, and conditions had been imposed to manage the proposal’s impacts.

The new building will use natural gas for power; use heat produced by the facility to power the air conditioning system; and collect, treat and re-use waste water on-site.

“This will be one of the world’s first data centres with measurable environmental sustainability measures,” Mr Kelly said.

“Under the approval proposal, the company will adopt a tri-generation system that uses natural gas as the primary energy source, generating electricity on-site.

“Trigeneration is expected to provide a 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, when compared to using conventional power from the electricity grid.

“In terms of waste water, there will be on-site rainwater harvesting and also recycling and on-site sewage/black water storage, treatment and re-use.

“After a detailed assessment, a number of conditions have been put in place to ensure the economic benefits of the proposal can be realised, and environmental impacts minimised.”

Construction of the data centre will begin in mid 2011, and be complete by the end of 2012.

**Background notes**

Data Centres and assistance from Industry and Investment NSW to secure Global Switch’s expansion

- Many companies choose to outsource the ownership and / or management of their ICT infrastructure to specialised data centres.
- A data centre manages the continuous availability of ICT systems, as well as controlling the environment of the infrastructure in terms of temperature, power supply and security.
- Industry & Investment NSW has worked with Global Switch over the past year, to arrange meetings with parties including energy utilities, the City of Sydney and Government agencies
- This included in relation to due diligence regarding gas supplies which would be required under Global Switch's proposal.

Planning conditions on the Global Switch Sydney 2 proposal

- Conditions placed on the project as a result of the planning process include:
  - Ensuring that the centre meets the relevant Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water licences, including for air quality emissions and noise;
  - Requiring construction plans to be submitted to transport authorities prior to review before works begin, because of the site’s proximity to the light rail corridor; and
  - Requiring a construction management plan to be prepared, which restricts mobile cranes use to reduce traffic disruption and ensures loading and unloading is carried out so as to minimise public inconvenience or impact on the locality.