# "We are going through one of the best times in the data center industry"

Interview with Saúl Varela, CEO of CliAtec, and Pierre-Luc Barbe, CEO of Rentaload

The data center industry is booming. The rapid implementation of 5G, the development of fiber optics in more and more locations and also the increasing number of large projects by technology giants in Spain are contributing to the expansion and evolution of the sector.

In this context, Rentaload (specialized in rental of load banks and associated services) and CliAtec 360º Data Center (specialized in design, construction, maintenance and operation of data centers), have recently announced the signing of a collaboration

agreement for the Spanish and Portuguese markets. In this interview, we spoke with Saúl Varela, CEO of CliAtec, and Pierre-Luc Barbe, CEO of Rentaload, to learn about the current state of the data center market, how this alliance will change the industry landscape, and which technologies will be the main players in the coming months.

**Saúl Varela, General Manager, CliAtec**

**What is the current situation in the data center industry ?**

We are in one of the best times in the data center industry. Since the pandemic, the need for robust digital infrastructure capable of supporting the digital economy has become more evident.

Around the world, companies have accelerated their digitization processes and increased their demand for services, turning data centers into vital infrastructures to support business activity.

On a national level, Spain stands out as an investment center for large technological projects. We are seeing the emergence of new Cloud regions that initially did not appear on the world map and are now positioning themselves on the map. This is the case of Madrid and other regions of our country, with large projects of the main global cloud players.

**What are the goals you want to achieve through Rentaload's partnership with CliAtec?**

In the scenario we have described, the Spanish/Portuguese market is emerging as a meeting point for Internet traffic in Southern Europe. Rentaload has a strong presence in the FLAP market - Dublin - Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam and Paris - and with this agreement we plan to enter the Spanish market with quality local partners.

CliAtec provides highly qualified personnel with extensive experience in the commissioning phase of data centers. Together, CliAtec and Rentaload will tackle the major technology projects in our country by offering high quality services.

**How will this partnership change the current scenario in Spain and Portugal ?**

With this agreement we will be able to operate in Spain and Portugal in the area of intelligent load banks in data centers and provide quality services. Rentaload has more than 60MW of power with rack mounted load banks that act as true server emulators, 21kW aerothermal load banks with integrated ATS and Low Delta T 100/200/300/650kW load banks, all available in connected version (with feedback on measurements for data centers).

## Pierre- Luc Barbe, Managing Director of Rentaload

### How important are load banks in data center operations and why are they so relevant in the commissioning phase in particular?

In modern data centers, there are a multitude of electrical components. The availability of these digital infrastructures depends to a large extent on their proper functioning. Load banks are systems that check, monitor and test the power supplies in a data center. The goal is to ensure efficient operation and reduce downtime.

They simulate varying power load conditions in a data center and test its resilience in different scenarios. And they are particularly recommended in the commissioning phase, as this is where all systems and components in a data center are tested, validated and verified to have been installed according to the requirements designed by the end user.

The problem is that the actual load is not normally available in the initial phases of a data center. This is because they plan to expand gradually over time and adapt the power consumption to the expansion of the data center. In these cases, load banks

are the most reliable method of simulating real-world load in a practical way and ensuring the safety of all components.

## How do these load banks work and what are their uses? What are the most common applications for these load banks today?

Loadbanks are not only suitable for simulating real-world power supply conditions, but also for the entire verification process. There are many critical elements that need to be validated, but nothing is certain at this stage. UPS systems, HVAC systems, backup diesel generators, server racks, etc.

In a data center, these systems are mainly used for this type of use:

- Commissioning
- Maintenance
- Replacement of components
- Periodic testing of backup and/or emergency generators
- Testing of inverters
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system start-up and commissioning
- Rack in servers

## Where is the data center industry headed and what technologies will be most important next year?

These are exciting times. The implementation of 5G, the development of fiber optics in more and more places and the development of important projects of "technological giants" in Spain, augur a great development of the sector.

In industrial processes, technologies such as digital twins, robotics or the Internet of Things will accelerate production processes and contribute to efficiency. As far as data centers are concerned, we are witnessing a major challenge, that of the large volume of data, its location and how to manage and store it. Technologies will have to meet this challenge as well as the challenge of infrastructure sustainability and carbon footprint reduction.