

CME GROUP'S DATA CENTER TO LAUNCH IN 2012



Iqbal Brainch, Chief Marketing Officer at Advantage Futures, recently sat down with Craig Mohan, Managing Director CME Group, Co-Location and Data Center Services, to discuss the upcoming launch of CME Co-Location Services at their new data center in Aurora, IL. Advantage Futures has made a significant investment in securing cabinet space at the new CME Group data center to support server co-location needs of our clients. The following provides a summary of their discussion.



Could you briefly describe your role at CME Group?

I am responsible for the strategic development, management and overall execution of our co-location and data center hosting business, including sales, product development and client services.

What value does CME Group's new data center offer?

The primary benefit of our new data center is low-latency access to CME Globes, along with space and power to support customer growth. CME Group started this initiative a few years ago when we saw that electronic trading and data volumes were trending through the roof. With that we knew that we had to expand our capacity to support the continued growth of the markets. We decided to launch our own datacenter in Aurora, IL in 2007 and we have moved at a rapid pace in its development. We moved CME Globex into the datacenter last August and since then we developed and started selling the CME Co-Location Services offering. With this new data center we intend to support the future growth of electronic markets and provide a growth path for our customers as well. We have a tremendous amount of space and power with room to grow.

When is the new datacenter scheduled to launch?

Customers are currently moving into the data center and we are on track to launch with live trading in January 2012.

What requirements are needed to host at the new datacenter?

A customer would need a contractual relationship with CME Group. They can do that for CME Co-Location Services by signing a Master Co-Location Services Agreement and Order Form. If the customer does not have a previous trading relationship with CME Group, they would need to sign a Market Data License Agreement as well as a Connectivity Agreement in order to get access to the market. It is important for us to provide equal and fair access into the datacenter for all customers so we do not discriminate on membership type, size of customer, order flow or any other factor. We truly are fair and equal

and open to all participants who want to take space in the datacenter.

Could you discuss the importance of technology as it relates to CME Group?

Clearly you can see that CME Group has made a tremendous investment in technology with the advancement of CME Globex over the years and technology plays an important part in that. In addition, you can see the impact of technology with our CME Global Command Center as well as our technology operations center, which runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also see the importance of technology through the new datacenter, which is over 420,000 sq. ft. and powered by our own 184 megawatt substation.

How does CME partner with FCMs?

CME Group partners with FCMs to help provide access to the markets in a way that is fairly unique in the marketplace. We work with FCMs to develop and design solutions that are appropriate for them to host other customers or to help connect customers directly depending on their needs. For example, we met with Advantage Futures several times in the design process of the datacenter to ensure that the services we were providing would meet their needs and our solution was appropriate for their customers now and in the future.

Could you talk about the importance of co-location to traders?

In its most basic form, co-location is housing a customer server in the same location as the exchange matching engine. This provides traders with the lowest possible latency, which can be very important for managing risk and identifying potential opportunities in the market. Being in the same building as the exchange matching engine eliminates up to 40 miles of fiber which the light has to travel. This can result in up to a millisecond of savings in total transaction time that can be significant to many in our trading community. In addition, the infrastructure support provided by our datacenter allows traders the flexibility to grow and ensure all of their co-location needs are met.