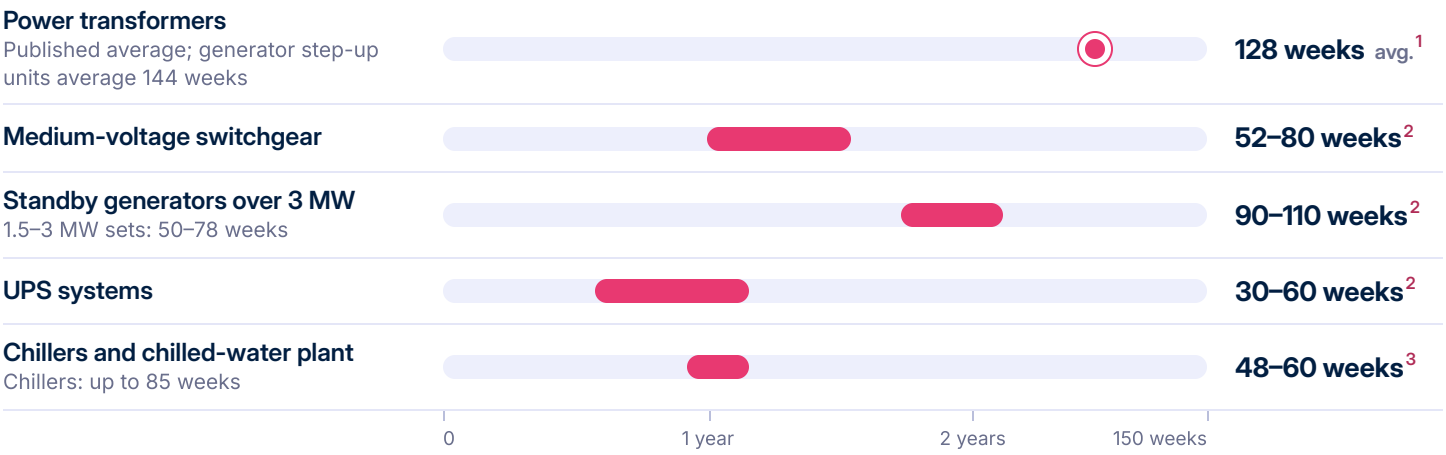
ZINIT

Data Center Long-Lead Cheat Sheet 2026

How long the five bottleneck items take to arrive, what a late month costs, and what to ask a supplier before you sign.

How long the equipment takes to arrive

Weeks from purchase order to delivery, as published in 2026. Pink bars mark today's range; the dot marks a published average.



To find the last safe day to sign, start from the date you need it on site and count back the top of the range (or the average, for transformers) plus a few weeks for receiving and testing.

What a late month costs

Up to $14.2M[4]

a month, or up to about $470K a day, on a typical 60 MW US build



- **$10.8M** lost revenue
- **$2.2M** labour and overhead
- **$1.2M** penalties[5]

STL Partners also found that delays like these can cut a project's IRR by more than 25%. For a first figure on your own build, that is up to about $237K per MW for each month late, if it looks like STL's typical one; your own lease rate and penalties will give you a better number.

Five questions to ask a supplier before you sign

1. Can you hold a production slot for us now, and what do you need from us to lock it in?
2. If the whole order can't arrive by our date, can you ship part of it early and the rest later?
3. Is there a standard rating or design you build more often that would ship sooner, and by how many weeks?
4. When is the factory acceptance test, and can we book our witness date now?
5. Where does it ship from, and are freight, customs and any oversize permits inside your quoted lead time?

Run the numbers on your own equipment list

This sheet comes with the Data Center Long-Lead Check, a free skill from Zinit for Claude, ChatGPT, Codex, Gemini, Grok or any AI assistant. Give it your equipment list and it works out the latest safe order date for every long-lead line, flags the ones that will be late, prices the delay and drafts these questions for each supplier. zinit.com/industries/data-centers

Sources, read again on 2026-11-11. [1] Wood Mackenzie Q2 2025 survey, via MGRID (April 2026). [2] Terrapin Construction Group (June 2026), Switchgear, Transformer, and Generator Lead Times in 2026. [3] DC Atlas (February 2026), citing CAE and SourceBlue. [4] STL Partners (March 2025), Delays in data centre construction cost developers nearly USD15mn per month. [5] The Fast Mode (February 2026), What We Learned in 2025 About Data Center Builds, by STL Partners. Lead times move with order books and factory capacity, so confirm every date with your supplier.