

# Data center eyes NoVa expansion

After only a bit more than a year in operation, Wise County's first data center is expanding sales into one of the nation's biggest data center corridors.

Mineral Gap, the only designed and constructed Tier III data center in Virginia, is a 65,000-square-foot facility in the Lonesome Pine Business and Technology Park. It stores "mission-critical data and business assets for a wide range of private companies and state and federal government agencies," according to the owner, DP Facilities Inc.

The company announced May 15 that it is expanding sales into the Ashburn, Va., data center corridor "and exploring possible locations for a new state-of-the-art facility."

DP Facilities President Mark Gerard said: "Ashburn deserves a colocation data center that offers the safety, security and resilience of our Wise County facility."

Ashburn, in Loudoun County, is about 30 miles northwest of Washington, D.C.

In response to questions about the Ashburn expansion, DP Facilities spokesman Marc Silverstein said the move is expected to attract more business to the Wise County facility.

"We see expansion in Loudoun County as a win-win," Silverstein noted in an email. "Not only are we able to build more facilities and attract people to Southwest Virginia, but we're also able to grow outside the region and expand the company further in Virginia . . . a large number of customers we're pursuing to bring to Southwest Virginia are located in Ashburn, which is the largest data center market in world."

Because of this region's geography, DP Facilities sees Southwest Virginia "as the next secure technology corridor in Virginia," according to Silverstein. "We believe there is a huge opportunity in Southwest Virginia to grow the data center market in a way that compliments Northern Virginia's data center alley and raising the state's status as Virginia secure."