

## An industry of every profession

*Digital infrastructure needs far more than technicians — the whole career map, on one page*

### The key idea: there's a door for almost everyone

Ask what jobs digital infrastructure creates and you'll hear "technicians and electricians". True and radically incomplete. A major facility, across its life, engages virtually every profession in the economy. For students, parents and career changers, that means the question isn't **whether** there's a path in. It's which door fits.

### The map, by lifecycle

**Before anything is built:** strategists, analysts, economists, site-selection specialists, town planners, planning and property lawyers, community-engagement professionals. **Design:** architects; electrical, mechanical, civil, structural and network engineers; fire-safety engineers; sustainability specialists. **Build and commission:** project and construction managers, quantity surveyors, safety professionals, every licensed trade, commissioning and controls specialists. **Run:** facility managers, technicians, shift operators, maintenance planners. **Protect:** physical, electronic and cyber security, fire-systems technicians, emergency planners. **And always:** accountants, lawyers, HR, procurement, marketing, communications, trainers.

### Two timely facts

First: a large share of the industry's existing technical workforce is approaching retirement. Experienced people are leaving faster than replacements arrive, which means **unusual openness to newcomers and career changers** at every level. Second: the jobs don't stop at the fence. Credible analysis finds each direct data-centre job supports **roughly six more** in the wider economy, from construction supply chains to the local businesses serving the sector. (*Multiplier from US analysis; Australian figures will differ. The direction is what matters.*)

### Getting oriented, from any starting point

Most of these professions already exist here; the industry gap is *orientation*, not qualification. A local lawyer, accountant, security officer or HVAC tradesperson is typically one focused course or credential away from sector work, not a new degree away. Sheets 03–05 of this series cover the pathways: degree-optional entries, recognition of prior learning and how to read credentials.

### What good practice looks like

- Career communication that shows the whole map, not just hard hats.
- Employers stating the actual entry requirement per role: trade, certificate, degree or disposition.
- Local professionals (law, finance, security, trades) offered sector-orientation pathways.
- Schools and councils near projects given the full careers picture early.

### Questions to ask

Which professions will this project engage locally, beyond the trades? What orientation or conversion pathways exist for professionals already here? Who is showing our students the full map?

**Want to know more?** DII's education framework maps the careers and credentials; sheets 01–06 of this series cover jobs, trades, pathways, reskilling and credentials. This sheet is general information, not careers or training advice; check the named sources for current detail.