

Private/Hybrid Cloud — Data Center Services

AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services —
Midmarket

A research report comparing provider strengths,
challenges and competitive differentiators



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U.S. firms are adopting a governance-driven AI-ready hybrid cloud operating model with outcome-focused service delivery.

This report presents an independent benchmarking of leading service providers delivering private hybrid cloud and data center (PHCDC) services in the U.S. market. It is designed to help enterprise buyers evaluate providers based on their ability to support modernization, manage complex hybrid cloud environments and enable AI-ready infrastructure. As enterprises increasingly balance legacy stability with cloud transformation and AI adoption, this study assesses how effectively providers align their portfolios, operating models and delivery capabilities to evolving enterprise needs.

Market Context

The U.S. PHCDC services market is undergoing a structural shift driven by three converging forces: the rise of AI workloads, the persistence

of legacy infrastructure and increasing regulatory and governance requirements. Enterprises are no longer pursuing full cloud migration strategies; instead, they are adopting hybrid models that allow them to retain control over sensitive workloads while leveraging cloud scalability and innovation. This shift has elevated the significance of private cloud, managed hosting and colocation services as strategic components rather than transactional solutions.

A defining trend in the market is the emergence of AI-ready infrastructure as a core design principle. Service providers are restructuring offerings to include GPU-enabled environments, AI factories and agentic operations frameworks. These capabilities are being tightly integrated with observability, FinOps and automation to create unified operating models that support both traditional and AI workloads. Enterprises are demanding stronger governance, sovereignty and cost control, particularly in regulated industries and public sector environments.

Another key market dynamic is the convergence of infrastructure services with

Providers
differentiate with
**AI-led integrated,
automated and
outcome-focused
delivery.**



managed operations and transformation. Providers are no longer evaluated solely on their ability to host or manage infrastructure but on their ability to deliver continuous modernization while maintaining operational stability. This has led to increased emphasis on platform-led delivery, automation maturity and integrated lifecycle services spanning advisory, build and run.

Economic pressures and cost optimization priorities are reshaping enterprise expectations. Buyers are increasingly scrutinizing pricing models, pushing providers toward outcome-based and consumption-driven constructs. This shift is also accelerating the adoption of automation and AI-led operations, as enterprises seek measurable efficiency gains alongside transformation outcomes.

Enterprise Priorities

Enterprise buyers in the U.S. are responding to the market shifts by redefining their infrastructure and operations strategies around control, flexibility and measurable outcomes. Rather than pursuing large-scale, disruptive transformations, enterprises are adopting

phased modernization approaches that allow them to evolve hybrid cloud environments while maintaining continuity for mission-critical systems. A central theme observed is to run AI workloads in controlled environments. Enterprises are increasingly seeking private and hybrid cloud solutions that support GPU-intensive workloads while ensuring data sovereignty, security and compliance. This is particularly relevant for industries such as financial services, healthcare and the public sector, where regulatory constraints limit the use of public cloud for certain workloads.

Another key priority is operational efficiency through automation and AI-driven management. Enterprises expect providers to deliver AIOps, agentic operations and predictive analytics as part of managed services, enabling faster incident resolution, reduced manual effort and improved system reliability. However, buyers are also cautious about over-reliance on automation, favoring models that balance machine-driven operations with human oversight. Cost governance has also emerged as a critical concern. Enterprises are looking for

integrated FinOps capabilities that provide real-time visibility into infrastructure spend across hybrid environments. This includes the ability to optimize resource utilization, forecast costs and align spending with business outcomes. Providers that can demonstrate continuous cost optimization rather than one-time savings are gaining stronger traction.

Enterprises are prioritizing vendor flexibility and ecosystem integration. As hybrid environments become more complex, buyers are seeking providers that can operate across multiple platforms, avoid lock-in and integrate seamlessly with hyperscalers and third-party tools. This shift is driving the demand for vendor-neutral architectures and platform-agnostic operating models. Finally, enterprises are placing greater emphasis on resilience and continuity. Disaster recovery, cyber recovery and business continuity are no longer optional capabilities but core requirements embedded into managed services. Buyers expect providers to deliver these capabilities as part of a unified operating model rather than as standalone solutions.

Provider Dynamics

Service providers in the U.S. PHCDC market are actively evolving their portfolios and delivery models to align with these changing enterprise priorities. A key trend is the shift toward platform-led managed services, where providers integrate infrastructure, operations and governance into a unified control layer. These platforms combine observability, automation, FinOps and security to enable consistent management across hybrid cloud environments. Another significant development is the increasing focus on AI-enabled infrastructure and operations. Providers are investing heavily in AI factories, GPU-as-a-service offerings and agentic operations frameworks. These capabilities are designed to support the full lifecycle of AI workloads, from deployment to ongoing management. However, there is considerable variation in maturity, with some providers offering advanced autonomous operations while others remain in early adoption stages.

Providers are also strengthening their hybrid cloud and private cloud capabilities to



Executive Summary

address enterprise demand for control and flexibility. This includes the development of vendor-neutral architectures, sovereign cloud offerings and modular deployment models that allow enterprises to tailor infrastructure to their specific needs. Partnerships with hyperscalers and technology vendors are becoming increasingly important, enabling providers to extend their capabilities and deliver integrated solutions. A notable trend is the emphasis on governance and compliance as core differentiators. Providers are embedding zero-trust architectures, policy-driven controls and audit-ready frameworks into their services, especially for regulated industries and public sector clients. This reflects the growing importance of security and compliance in enterprise decision-making.

However, several challenges remain. Many providers face complexity in standardizing delivery across legacy and modern environments, leading to variability in execution. Reliance on traditional pricing models and global delivery structures can limit agility and transparency. Providers are also under pressure to demonstrate clear

differentiation in a crowded market, particularly as capabilities such as automation and hybrid cloud become table stakes.

Future Outlook

The PHCDC services market in the U.S. will continue to evolve toward AI-centric, platform-driven operating models. Enterprises will increasingly treat infrastructure as a strategic enabler of innovation, rather than a cost center, driving demand for providers that can deliver both stability and transformation.

For enterprise buyers, the focus should be on selecting providers that can act as long-term transformation partners rather than transactional service vendors. This includes evaluating providers based on their ability to deliver measurable outcomes, scale automation and support AI workloads in production environments. Buyers should also prioritize flexibility, ensuring chosen providers can operate across diverse platforms and adapt to changing requirements.

For service providers, the key imperative will be to move beyond capability building to execution maturity. This includes demonstrating real-

world proof points for AI-led operations, standardizing delivery models and adopting outcome-based pricing structures that align with enterprise expectations. Providers must also continue to invest in ecosystem partnerships and innovation to maintain competitiveness.

Finally, both enterprises and providers must address the growing complexity of hybrid cloud environments. This will require greater emphasis on governance, observability and integrated operations to ensure infrastructure can scale effectively while maintaining control and compliance. The market is moving toward a model where hybrid cloud, managed services and AI operations converge into a unified operating layer, enabling enterprises to modernize with confidence while preparing for future innovation.

Enterprise demand to integrate AI in their operations has resulted in service providers evolving their solutions into platform-led offerings that integrate infrastructure, automation, FinOps and AI-driven operations into a unified operating model. Providers' key differentiator is to deliver consistent execution, support production-scale AI workloads and enable continuous modernization while maintaining stability and compliance.





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
11:11 Systems	Not In	Contender	Contender	Not In
365 Data Centers	Not In	Not In	Not In	Product Challenger
Accenture	Leader	Not In	Not In	Not In
Altimetrik	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
Atos	Product Challenger	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In
Birlasoft	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
Capgemini	Leader	Not In	Not In	Not In
CDNetworks	Not In	Not In	Not In	Contender
CGI	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In	Not In
Codero	Not In	Not In	Contender	Not In





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
Coforge	Not In	Leader	Not In	Not In
Cogent	Not In	Not In	Not In	Product Challenger
Cognizant	Leader	Not In	Not In	Not In
Colocation America	Not In	Not In	Contender	Contender
Cologix	Not In	Not In	Not In	Rising Star ★
Computacenter	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
CoreSite	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader
Csquare	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader
CyrusOne	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader
DataBank	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
Digital Realty	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader
DXC Technology	Leader	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In
Ensono	Not In	Leader	Product Challenger	Not In
Equinix	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader
Expedient	Not In	Not In	Not In	Contender
Flexential	Not In	Not In	Product Challenger	Leader
FNTS	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
Fujitsu	Not In	Product Challenger	Product Challenger	Not In
HCLTech	Leader	Not In	Not In	Not In
Hexaware	Contender	Leader	Not In	Not In





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
Hitachi Digital Services	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
HorizonIQ	Not In	Not In	Contender	Not In
HPE	Rising Star ★	Not In	Not In	Not In
IBM	Not In	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In
Infinite Computer Solutions	Not In	Leader	Not In	Not In
Infosys	Leader	Not In	Not In	Not In
Innova Solutions	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
InterVision	Contender	Not In	Contender	Not In
Iron Mountain	Not In	Not In	Not In	Product Challenger
Kyndryl	Leader	Not In	Leader	Not In





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
Lenovo	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In	Not In
Liquid Web	Not In	Not In	Contender	Not In
LTM	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In	Not In
Lumen Technologies	Not In	Contender	Product Challenger	Product Challenger
Microland	Contender	Leader	Not In	Not In
Mphasis	Product Challenger	Leader	Not In	Not In
NTT DATA	Leader	Not In	Leader	Leader
Park Place Technologies	Not In	Contender	Not In	Not In
Persistent Systems	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
phoenixNAP	Not In	Not In	Not In	Contender





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
QTS	Not In	Not In	Not In	Leader
Rackspace Technology	Product Challenger	Leader	Leader	Product Challenger
Red River	Not In	Contender	Not In	Not In
Stefanini	Contender	Not In	Not In	Not In
Sutherland	Not In	Contender	Not In	Not In
Switch	Not In	Not In	Not In	Contender
Syntax	Not In	Product Challenger	Product Challenger	Not In
TCS	Leader	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In
Tech Mahindra	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In	Not In
TierPoint	Not In	Not In	Contender	Product Challenger





Provider Positioning

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	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts	AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket	Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services	Sustainable Colocation Services
T-Systems	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In	Not In
Unisys	Product Challenger	Leader	Leader	Not In
UnitedLayer	Not In	Product Challenger	Leader	Product Challenger
US Signal	Not In	Not In	Not In	Product Challenger
UST	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In
Wipro	Leader	Not In	Not In	Not In
Zensar Technologies	Not In	Product Challenger	Product Challenger	Not In
Zones	Not In	Product Challenger	Not In	Not In



This study focuses on what ISG perceives as the most critical aspects of **private/hybrid cloud and data center services** in 2026.

Simplified Illustration Source: ISG 2026

AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts

AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket

Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services

Sustainable Colocation Services

Definition

This study assesses global and regional providers delivering private and hybrid cloud-centric infrastructure services to enterprises across regions and the U.S. public sector. The research covers AI-ready infrastructure managed services, managed cloud hosting and resilient infrastructure services, sustainable colocation services, and edge computing services, reflecting how organizations are modernizing their core IT foundations to support data-intensive and AI-driven workloads.

AI technologies are increasingly being embedded across an entire infrastructure services stack, spanning on-premises, private, hybrid and public cloud environments. This shift is moving operations from reactive maintenance to predictive, automated and increasingly autonomous models. Providers leverage AI for intelligent monitoring, anomaly detection, automated root-cause analysis, predictive maintenance, dynamic resource scaling and enhanced cybersecurity. GenAI further improves operational efficiency through copilots, self-service interfaces and advanced analytics that support incident resolution, capacity planning and infrastructure optimization.

Enterprises and public sector institutions are also re-evaluating where they run their workloads. Managed hosting, colocation and sovereign cloud infrastructure have become central to hybrid cloud strategies, particularly for sensitive or regulated workloads, requiring jurisdictional control, compliance and risk mitigation. At the same time, sustainability has emerged as a critical infrastructure priority, owing to rising energy demand, limitations in power availability and regulatory pressure. Providers are increasingly applying AI both to optimize infrastructure efficiency and to reduce the environmental footprint of AI workloads.

The dedicated lens on the U.S. public sector, for this study, encompasses state and local government and education (SLED) organizations, public utilities, public health entities and other U.S. agencies. For these organizations, private and hybrid cloud environments form the foundation for secure and compliant AI adoption, enabling innovation at scale while protecting sensitive data and meeting stringent governance and regulatory compliance requirements.



Scope of the Report

This ISG Provider Lens® quadrant report covers the following four quadrants for services: AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Large Accounts, AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket, Managed Cloud Hosting and Resilient Infrastructure Services and Sustainable Colocation Services.

This ISG Provider Lens® study offers IT decision-makers:

- Transparency on the strengths and weaknesses of relevant providers
- A differentiated positioning of providers by segments (quadrants)
- Focus on the regional market

Our study serves as an important decision-making basis for positioning, key relationships and go-to-market considerations. ISG advisors and enterprise clients also use information from these reports to evaluate their current vendor relationships and potential engagements.

Provider Classifications

The provider position reflects the suitability of providers for a defined market segment (quadrant). Without further additions, the position always applies to all company sizes classes and industries. In case the service requirements from enterprise customers differ and the spectrum of providers operating in the local market is sufficiently wide, a further differentiation of the providers by performance is made according to the target group for products and services. In doing so, ISG either considers the industry requirements or the number of employees, as well as the corporate structures of customers and positions providers according to their focus area. As a result, ISG differentiates them, if necessary, into two client target groups that are defined as follows:

- **Midmarket:** Companies with 100 to 4,999 employees or revenues between \$20 million and \$999 million with central headquarters in the respective country, usually privately owned.

- **Large Accounts:** Multinational companies with more than 5,000 employees or revenue above \$1 billion, with activities worldwide and globally distributed decision-making structures.

The ISG Provider Lens® quadrants are created using an evaluation matrix containing four segments (Leader, Product & Market Challenger and Contender), and the providers are positioned accordingly. Each ISG Provider Lens® quadrant may include a service provider(s) which ISG believes has strong potential to move into the Leader quadrant. This type of provider can be classified as a Rising Star.

- **Number of providers in each quadrant:** ISG rates and positions the most relevant providers according to the scope of the report for each quadrant and limits the maximum of providers per quadrant to 25 (exceptions are possible).





Provider Classifications: Quadrant Key

Product Challengers offer a product and service portfolio that reflect excellent service and technology stacks. These providers and vendors deliver an unmatched broad and deep range of capabilities. They show evidence of investing to enhance their market presence and competitive strengths.

Contenders offer services and products meeting the evaluation criteria that qualifies them to be included in the IPL quadrant. These promising service providers or vendors show evidence of rapidly investing in products/ services and follow sensible market approach with a goal of becoming a Product or Market Challenger within 12 to 18 months.

Leaders have a comprehensive product and service offering, a strong market presence and established competitive position. The product portfolios and competitive strategies of Leaders are strongly positioned to win business in the markets covered by the study. The Leaders also represent innovative strength and competitive stability.

Market Challengers have a strong presence in the market and offer a significant edge over other vendors and providers based on competitive strength. Often, Market Challengers are the established and well-known vendors in the regions or vertical markets covered in the study.

★ **Rising Stars** have promising portfolios or the market experience to become a Leader, including the required roadmap and adequate focus on key market trends and customer requirements. Rising Stars also have excellent management and understanding of the local market in the studied region. These vendors and service providers give evidence of significant progress toward their goals in the last 12 months. ISG expects Rising Stars to reach the Leader quadrant within the next 12 to 24 months if they continue their delivery of above-average market impact and strength of innovation.

Not in means the service provider or vendor was not included in this quadrant. Among the possible reasons for this designation: ISG could not obtain enough information to position the company; the company does not provide the relevant service or solution as defined for each quadrant of a study; or the company did not meet the eligibility criteria for the study quadrant. Omission from the quadrant does not imply that the service provider or vendor does not offer or plan to offer this service or solution.





AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket

Who Should Read This Section

This report is valuable for providers offering **AI-ready infrastructure managed services to mid-size businesses** in the **U.S.** to understand their market position and for enterprises looking to evaluate these providers. In this quadrant, ISG highlights the current market positioning of these providers based on the depth of their service offerings and market presence.

IT and infrastructure leaders

In the U.S. should read this report to analyze the modernization capabilities of MSPs to identify the ones offering innovative solutions aligned with evolving technology trends. An understanding of these market advancements is critical for IT executives to design effective, future-proof private cloud strategies and ensure their organizations maintain competitive agility and resilience.

Software development and technology leaders

Should read this report to gain insights into providers' strategic positioning, technological expertise and innovations in infrastructure transformation. This insight would empower them to align internal software development and technology road maps with external expertise, driving efficient and impactful digital transformation.

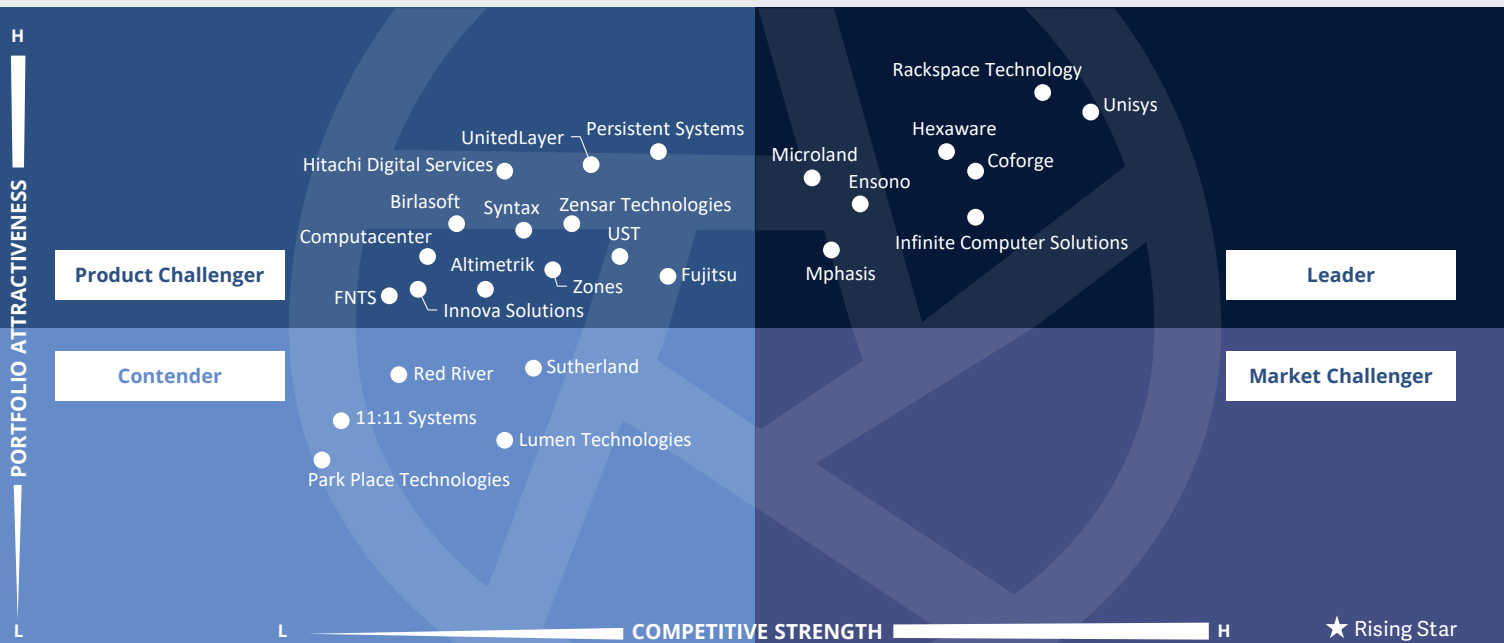
Sourcing, procurement and vendor management professionals

Should read this report to better understand the current landscape and partner ecosystem of AI-ready managed services in the U.S. A deep understanding of provider competencies, differentiation and market presence would support informed selection decisions and negotiation strategies, ensuring the establishment of optimal partnerships that deliver both immediate value and sustainable long-term benefits.



Private/Hybrid Cloud – Data Center Services
AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services – Midmarket

U.S. 2026



This quadrant assesses providers offering **managed services** for private and hybrid clouds and **traditional data centers** for the midmarket. They provide **transition services, manage daily operations** and help **optimize** clients' existing IT landscapes.

Shashank Rajmane



AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket

Definition

This quadrant assesses providers delivering managed services for private and hybrid cloud and data center environments, with particular focus on continuous optimization and operation of infrastructure to support AI workloads, alongside traditional workloads. Providers take on end-to-end responsibility for operating, automating and transforming infrastructure environments across client data centers, their own setups and third-party colocation facilities.

Unlike managed hosting, AI-ready infrastructure managed services include continuous transformation, AI-driven optimization and lifecycle management of AI-integrated infrastructure, including GPUs, high-performance storage, container platforms and data pipelines. Providers leverage advanced automation, AIOps and MLOps to foster predictive operations, self-healing environments and optimized training and

inference runtimes. Their services support both traditional and cloud-native applications and are tightly aligned with enterprise AI strategy, governance and sustainability objectives.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Offer managed services for **private, hybrid cloud and data center infrastructure** (servers, middleware, storage and databases) without partner dependency
2. Take responsibility for **continuous optimization and transformation of AI-integrated infrastructure**
3. Operate and **manage GPUs, accelerators, container platforms and AI runtime** environments
4. Leverage automation, AIOps and MLOps for **predictive operations and self-healing**
5. Support **infrastructure for AI training, inference and data pipeline readiness**
6. Show experience in **transition** projects that include **automation, consolidation, virtualization and containerization** with proven modernization or AI-enablement outcomes
7. Act as an **extension of clients' IT organization**, creating blueprints, architecture frameworks and management processes at their location
8. Provide services for the **centralized orchestration**, monitoring and management of a hybrid IT infrastructure, augmented with AI-driven observation and self-optimization
9. Showcase relevant security and compliance **certifications** at the local level and adhere to emerging AI governance, sustainability and data sovereignty standards
10. Have **expertise in cost monitoring, spend management and FinOps** for AI workloads



AI-ready Infrastructure Managed Services — Midmarket

Observations

Across midmarket providers, a clear theme is the shift toward AI-infused managed services delivered through focused, platform-led operating models rather than large-scale, monolithic outsourcing constructs. These providers emphasize agentic operations, SRE-led delivery and integrated FinOps and governance frameworks to make hybrid cloud environments more manageable and cost-efficient. Many also align their services with specific enterprise pain points such as VMware transitions, cost control or regulated workloads, instead of offering broad, one-size-fits-all solutions. This resonates with enterprises seeking targeted modernization without large upfront transformation risk.

For U.S. enterprise buyers, midmarket providers offer a more flexible, execution-focused alternative to large GSIs, particularly for organizations that want faster time-to-value, modular consumption models and closer alignment between engineering and operations. However, common trade-offs include limited scale, AI infrastructure operations maturity, narrower ecosystem depth and concentration risks across industries or geographies. U.S.

enterprise buyers should evaluate these providers based on their ability to scale automation, demonstrate production-grade AI operations and sustain delivery consistency, especially as workloads move from pilot to enterprise-wide deployment.

From the 68 companies assessed for this study, 26 qualified for this quadrant, with eight being Leaders.

Coforge

Coforge is moving beyond dependable hybrid infrastructure management toward an AI-ready operating model built around AgenticOps, platform engineering and managed environments for AI-adjacent workloads. This shows clear momentum toward more modern run operations.

ensono

Ensono stands out for turning infrastructure disruption into a practical managed services proposition, helping midmarket clients stabilize operations, modernize workloads and maintain Day 2 control and mobility through VMware change and broader estate transition.

HEXAWARE

Hexaware reflects the enterprise demand shift from conventional automation to reasoning-led operations, combining stronger governance, decision support, controlled autonomy and cost accountability to position AI-ready managed services as a disciplined operating model.



Infinite Computer Solutions stands out as a domain-led provider whose healthcare depth gives its AI-ready managed services story stronger operational credibility, especially for midmarket buyers in regulated environments that value contextual fit and run state reliability.

MICROLAND®

Microland stands out for packaging AI-ready managed services around governed software-defined operations and a practical inference-led consumption model, making its offering more usable and economically realistic for midmarket clients in the hybrid cloud space.



Mphasis stands out for integrating hybrid cloud modernization, platform engineering and AI-augmented operations into an easy-to-consume managed services delivery model. This gives buyers a credible path from estate transformation to more automated run state operations.



Rackspace Technology stands out for moving toward a productized, production-oriented private AI managed services model, showing stronger readiness to support governed AI workloads in live hybrid cloud environments.



Unisys stands out for emphasizing secure and governed AI-ready operations, making it relevant for buyers that need tighter control as they move from infrastructure transformation to steady-state managed outcomes in control-heavy environments.





“Rackspace Technology offers a comprehensive hybrid cloud and AI portfolio. Its mix of automation-led governed operations, flexible deployment choices and production-focused AI operations gives enterprises a clearer path from modernization to scaled AI adoption.”

Shashank Rajmane

Rackspace Technology

Overview

Rackspace Technology is headquartered in Texas, U.S. It has more than 5,100 employees across 23 countries. In FY24, the company generated \$2.7 billion in revenue. Rackspace has sharpened its private cloud offering through a VCF-based model and a managed private AI stack spanning GPU clusters, Kubernetes, storage and AI operations services. It extends this stack through its AI Reliability Engineering (AIRE) for DataOps, MLOps, LLMOps, FinOps and observability. In the U.S., it emphasizes AI governance for regulated and mission-critical environments, supported by its 2026 partnerships with Palantir and Uniphore to develop an agentic architecture for infrastructure operations.

Strengths

Workload-aware VCF architecture:

Rackspace has simplified its VMware offering into VCF Cloud, VCF Enterprise and VCF Edge, with shared APIs, identity and monitoring across dedicated and consumption-based environments. Backed by Undercloud orchestration and VCF 9 integration, this lets U.S. enterprises place regulated, AI-intensive or performance-heavy workloads in the right tier without redesigning operations, improving control and enabling faster provision and scaling.

Integrating governed AI into managed operations:

Rackspace has strengthened its hybrid cloud AI infrastructure portfolio by integrating Palantir Foundry and AIP into its managed services. This enables U.S. enterprises to run governed AI

workflows with improved data control, compliance and visibility, supporting more secure and scalable AI adoption in hybrid cloud environments.

Managed private AI platform: Rackspace packages private AI through Spot GPU as a Service, AI Anywhere, AI Business and bare metal options deployable in its own or client data centers. It combines NVIDIA-based compute, high-speed storage, Kubernetes and orchestration with AIRE services for DataOps, MLOps, LLMOps, FinOps and observability. This reduces assembly effort for U.S. enterprises and provides a practical way to run fine-tuning and inference close to sensitive data with consistent operational controls.

Caution

Rackspace Technology has experienced senior leadership turnover, which may create short-term uncertainty around strategic continuity and execution. While the new leadership has outlined a clear growth strategy, U.S. enterprises should monitor the execution and delivery consistency of hybrid cloud and data center services.





Appendix

The ISG Provider Lens 2026 – Private/Hybrid Cloud — Data Center Services study analyzes the relevant software vendors/service providers in the U.S. market, based on a multi-phased research and analysis process, and positions these providers based on the ISG Research methodology.

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The research and analysis presented in this report includes research from the ISG Provider Lens® program, ongoing ISG Research programs, interviews with ISG advisors, briefings with service providers and analysis of publicly available market information from multiple sources. The data collected for this report represent information that ISG believes to be current as of May 2026 for providers that actively participated and for providers that did not. ISG recognizes that many mergers and acquisitions may have occurred since then, but this report does not reflect these changes.

All revenue references are in U.S. dollars (\$US) unless noted otherwise.

The study was conducted in the following steps:

1. Definition of Private/Hybrid Cloud — Data Center Services market
2. Use of questionnaire-based surveys of service providers/vendor across all trend topics
3. Interactive discussions with service providers/vendors on capabilities and use cases
4. Leverage ISG's internal databases and advisor knowledge & experience (wherever applicable)
5. Detailed analysis and evaluation of services and service documentation based on the facts & figures received from providers and other sources.
6. Use of the following key evaluation criteria:
 - * Strategy and vision
 - * Innovation
 - * Brand awareness and presence in the market
 - * Sales and partner landscape
 - * Breadth and depth of portfolio of services offered
 - * Technology advancements



Author and Editor Biographies

Author



Shashank Rajmane
Manager and Principal Analyst

Shashank Rajmane has more than a decade of extensive experience in research and works as a Principal Analyst at ISG. He leads the efforts for ISG Provider Lens® studies — Public Cloud Services & Solutions and Private/Hybrid Cloud & Data Center Outsourcing Services. He also authors the U.S. and Global reports. Apart from these, Shashank has been part of many consulting engagements and helping ISG's enterprise clients with their cloud strategy, along with selecting the right service providers/vendors based on their IT-related buying

requirements. He has authored several white papers, thought leadership articles, briefing notes, blogs and service provider intelligence reports, especially in the next-generation hybrid cloud and infrastructure services domain. Shashank has also delivered several workshops, webinars and podcasts and has been quoted in IT journals.

Research Analyst and Co-Author



Yatharth Bharti
Senior Research Analyst

Yatharth is a Senior Research Analyst at ISG. He is responsible for supporting and co-authoring Provider Lens® studies on Public Cloud and Private Hybrid Cloud Data Centre Solutions and Services. Yatharth supports the Lead Analysts in the research process on multiple regions and authors the global summary report, and focal points. He also collaborates with the Lead Analysts in the process of rating the providers and building insights around the market trends and drivers.

Yatharth has over 7 years of experience with a strong background in research, data analysis, and business analysis.

In his previous role, Yatharth oversaw custom research and analysis projects to support businesses in better decision-making. Specializing across various industries with Everest Group, Yatharth provided valuable insights and recommendations and led in-depth analyses of enterprises and their operations to provide tailored insights to the clients.



Author and Editor Biographies

Study Sponsor



Heiko Henkes
Director & Principal Analyst, Global IPL Content Lead

Heiko Henkes serves as Director and Principal Analyst at ISG, overseeing the Global ISG Provider Lens® (IPL) Program for all IT Outsourcing (ITO) studies alongside his pivotal role in the global IPL division as a strategic program manager and thought leader for IPL lead analysts.

Henkes heads Star of Excellence, ISG's global customer experience initiative, steering program design and its integration with IPL and ISG's sourcing practice. His expertise lies in guiding companies through IT-based business model transformations, leveraging his deep understanding of continuous transformation,

IT competencies, sustainable business strategies and change management in a cloud-AI-driven business landscape. Henkes is known for his contributions as a keynote speaker on digital innovation, sharing insights on using technology for business growth and transformation.

IPL Product Owner



Jan Erik Aase
Partner and Global Head – ISG Provider Lens®

Mr. Aase brings extensive experience in the implementation and research of service integration and management of both IT and business processes. With over 35 years of experience, he is highly skilled at analyzing vendor governance trends and methodologies, identifying inefficiencies in current processes, and advising the industry. Jan Erik has experience on all four sides of the sourcing and vendor governance lifecycle - as a client, an industry analyst, a service provider and an advisor.

Now as a research director, principal analyst and global head of ISG Provider Lens®, he is very well positioned to assess and report on the state of the industry and make recommendations for both enterprises and service provider clients.



Provider Lens®

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