A Case Study
Major Hyperscale Decommissioning Project

SK tes

When a large hyperscale data center sought to retrofit their technology infrastructure, they turned to SK tes for support with the urgent removal of their redundant racks. Reacting to the rapid pace of change in today's digital landscape, they sought to complete the project quickly while also recovering value from their retired assets and ensuring absolute data security. This case study explores how SK tes provided a comprehensive solution to these challenges, resulting in a 34% higher financial return for the client.

The Challenge

The client faced several key challenges in their decommissioning project:

Large Scale Data Sanitization

The data center held over 72,000 storage servers with drives of varying capacities (4TB, 8TB, and 10TB) that needed to be sanitized before removal. Ensuring that no data left the facility was crucial.

Logistical Constraints

Operating within a COLO (colocation) environment, the client had limited access windows for dock and staging areas, complicating the logistics of asset removal.

Stringent Security and Compliance Requirements

The client needed to meet strict information security standards, including a certified verification report of data destruction.

SK tes Solution

SK tes devised a strategic plan to address the client's challenges, focusing on data integrity, logistical coordination, and maximizing asset value:

1 Initial Assessment and Planning

SK tes visited the site to complete a thorough walkthrough and asset review and formulated a comprehensive plan addressing coloation and information security concerns.
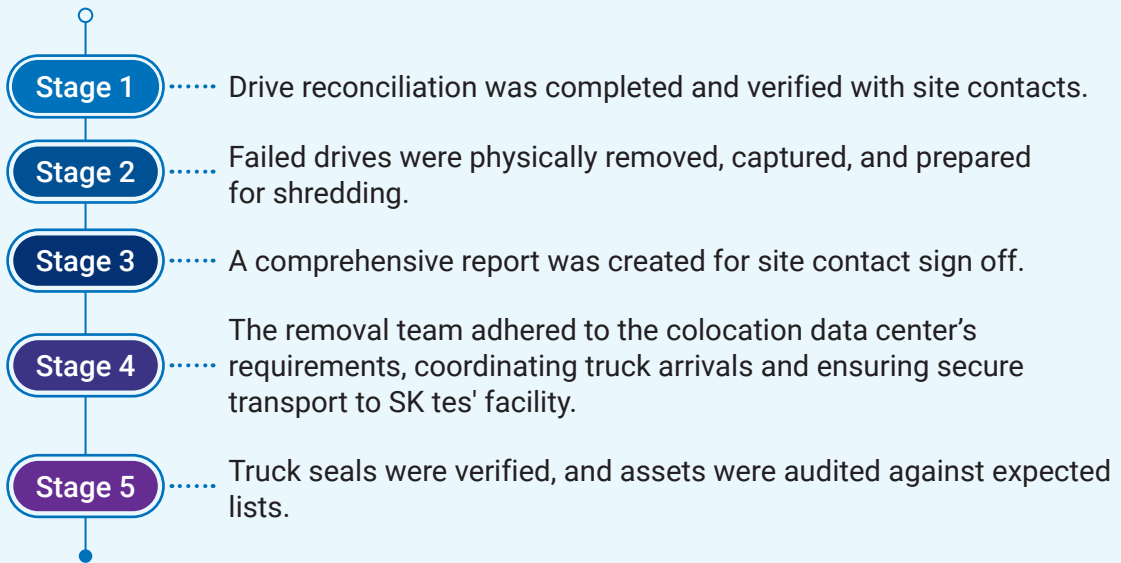
2 Network Configuration

SK tes engineers collaborated with the client to set up a VLAN using existing infrastructure. All switches were reset to ensure no network data was transmitted outside the facility.

3 **Data Sanitization and Asset Reconciliation**

- All assets were booked into SK tes' proprietary data sanitization platform. Discrepancies between expected and actual asset lists were physically verified.

- Drives not expected but found were confirmed with site contacts, while those expected but unseen were prepared for onsite shredding.

4 **Chain of Custody Management**

Stage 1 ······ Drive reconciliation was completed and verified with site contacts.

Stage 2 ······ Failed drives were physically removed, captured, and prepared for shredding.

Stage 3 ······ A comprehensive report was created for site contact sign off.

Stage 4 ······ The removal team adhered to the colocation data center's requirements, coordinating truck arrivals and ensuring secure transport to SK tes' facility.

Stage 5 ······ Truck seals were verified, and assets were audited against expected lists.

5 **Maximizing Asset Value**

SK tes harvested assets with a parent-child relationship for resale and performed a secondary data wipe at their facility for added assurance.

Results and Benefits

Financial Gain

Within 90 days, the client received $4.9 million from asset resale, netting $2.3 million more than a traditional drive pull and shred approach.

Efficiency

A 96% yield on onsite drive wiping minimized the physical handling of drives, reducing the risk of human error.

Time Savings

The electronic verification process saved six days, minimizing disruption in the colocation environment and personnel involvement.

Through strategic planning and execution, SK tes effectively addressed the client's requirements, resulting in enhanced security, operational efficiency, and financial returns. SK tes is a single-source service provider for the full lifecycle management of data center equipment. Engaging with SK tes meant that this client had a single company they could rely on to undertake decommissioning, data destruction, removal, reuse and recycling of their equipment, reducing vendor management burden and providing an efficient and cost effective service.

This case study underscores the importance of tailored solutions in complex data center decommissioning projects.

Talk to SK tes today about your data center decommissioning and data destruction needs.

Contact Us

www.sktes.com/contact-sales