

The Influencers Podcast: Podcast Preview

Powering the AI Economy with Andi Brocks, AWS

By James Walker

“S&P Global projects \$10 billion in new data centre insurance premiums in 2026 alone, that's roughly twice the entire global aviation insurance market. These are complex, high-value assets with novel risk profiles. The insurers who develop genuine expertise in understanding data centre risk... will capture disproportionate value.”

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The Data Centre Boom, Resilience and the Risk Frontier

In this episode of the Influencers Podcast, IUA's Tom Hughes and Hogan Lovells' Karishma Paroha welcomed Andi Brocks, AWS. The IUA (International Underwriting Association) is a trade association representing (re)insurance companies operating in the London company market. Hogan Lovells is a leading global law firm, specialising in highly regulated sectors, offering exceptional legal services worldwide.

Andi Brocks is AWS's Principal Architect for the insurance industry, with more than 25 years of technical leadership experience. He is recognised for aligning business goals with cutting-edge technology, from modernising legacy systems to unlocking new value through Generative AI across the insurance value chain. Andi is also the Field CTO for the UK Insurance Industry at AWS which allows him invaluable insight into what insurers and major organisations are doing to capitalise on data centres, and what challenges they're facing along the way.

During the discussion, Andi shares why data centres might hold the key to unlock the next generation of underwriting capabilities.

Data Centres – What's all the fuss about?

If you have attended an insurance industry event in the past year, you will have probably heard have heard someone talking about data centres. But what are the experts saying, and why has interest grown so quickly? In this episode, Andi explains the factors driving the surge in attention, from the rise in demand for AI, to the shift to cloud computing and even data sovereignty.

Data centres sit at the intersection of AI adoption, cloud expansion, and rapidly evolving digital infrastructure. As these facilities increase in scale, value, and technical complexity, they are creating what some commentators are terming ‘a generational opportunity’ for insurers, with industry estimates suggesting the sector could generate around \$10 billion in premiums in 2026 alone. However, this growth brings concentration risk, high replacement values, and more complicated underwriting challenges than many traditional asset classes.

Key Learnings

Andi shines some light on one of the more underappreciated topics within the data centre landscape: their lifecycles. Insurers must be well versed in each specific stage, from site selection and design through construction, commissioning, and live operations. Each stage brings unique risks, and Andi outlines their characteristics, impacts and potential mitigations.

The episode underlines that insurers cannot treat data centres as a conventional property risk. Those that build technical expertise, improve modelling, and engage early in the project lifecycle will be better placed to support clients and capture the opportunity.

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