

A DATA CENTER NEEDS A HOST WITH A REAL SAY IN THE DEAL

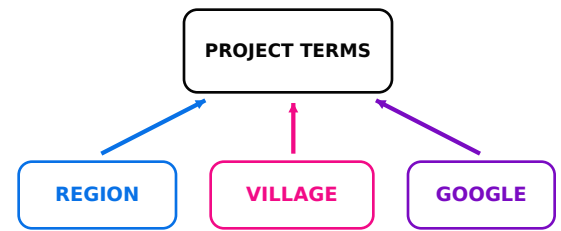
Google project companies and RTE | Ozans data center and grid connection

Étrechet, Châteauroux area, France

POLITICAL CONFLICT

No verified cancellation or quantified project delay

Regional ambition met a village-level question: who gets to shape the scale and terms of the project that will be built beside them?



WHO SHAPES THE BARGAIN

ANALYTICAL DIAGRAM

WHAT HAPPENED

Étrechet's mayor resigned on September 15, after four councillors resigned on September 11, amid opposition to Google's proposed data center. Concerns included land, water, grid demand and local control. Official project materials identify Google France, Tricolore/Violet Computing and grid operator RTE. Phasing and heat reuse were already envisaged. The resignations establish a political rupture, with no verified cancellation or measured construction delay. [1, 2]

EARLIER MOVES WORTH TESTING

- Give the host village meaningful influence over scale, buffers and expansion before commitments harden. Make clear which decisions remain open and who controls them.
- Set enforceable conditions for water, power and public infrastructure funding. Specify who pays if the project's needs or promised benefits change.
- Use the existing phased plan as a real review mechanism, with evidence required before expansion. Examine heat reuse through workable users, infrastructure and obligations.

THE BUSINESS LESSON

The host community needs a role that matches the impacts it carries. Broad political backing becomes fragile when local decision-makers cannot explain or shape the bargain.

Earlier moves are our assessment of plausible risk reduction, not proof they would have changed the outcome.

SOURCES

- 1 [Le Monde | Resignations, 16 Sep 2026](#)
- 2 [CNDP | Ozans project and grid consultation](#)