

PEERING PARTNER CHECKLIST

Finding and choosing a public peering exchange can be intimidating and overwhelming. Ideally, a successful relationship will last for years, growing and shifting with your business. That's a lot of pressure, and there are many different things to consider. Simplify the process by evaluating some foundational elements. These can act as guidelines to lead your search. Use the check boxes in each of the five key areas below to gauge how close you are to finding the perfect match.

BASICS

First, make sure your selected location is a fit, and that your IXP is trustworthy and established.

✓ Credibility

- Financially secure?
- History of success?
- Operator-neutral?
- Peering community support?
- Permanent staff?
- Strong ownership?
- Testimonials or case studies?

≡ Location

- Acceptable distance?
- Central location?
- Close proximity to potential members?
- Friendly local regulations?
- Many ISPs and carriers in the area?
- Strongest routes?

LOGISTICS

Next, you'll need to explore how you'll establish your network in the exchange, and whether it makes good business sense.

💰 Costs

- Cross-connect fees?
- Installation costs?
- Port price?
- Power fees?
- Rack fees?

🚚 Deployment

- Delivery travel time?
- Drop ship equipment or direct delivery?
- Rack and stack installation / Remote Hands services available?

PARTICIPANTS

Make sure the IX has a good number of members, connected with the networks and providers you want.

- How many carriers service the IXP?
- How many potential peers?
- Publicly accessible participants list?
- Sufficient traffic volume statistics?
- What kind of carriers service the IXP?
- What kind of potential peers?
- Wide choice of fiber providers?

PROTECTION

You should have total assurance that your equipment and connections will be safeguarded at all times. You should be totally familiar and comfortable with how operations are handled.

👤 Security

- 24-hour monitoring?
- CCTV?
- Fire prevention?
- Flood prevention?
- Restricted access?

🔧 Support

- 24-hour NOC availability?
- Average time for repair?
- Notification process for outages or issues?
- Protocol for equipment failures, software configuration mistakes, security problems, infrastructure failures?
- Real-time staff support?
- Software support for necessary peering features?

INFRASTRUCTURE

When assessing the capacity and capabilities of the IX make sure it works for you now, and also in the future if you decide to grow your requirements.

⚡ Power and Cooling

- Backup supply or generator (i.e., N+1)?
- Sufficient HVAC?
- Redundant power feeds?
- Redundant water feeds?
- Stable power supply?

🏠 Amenities

- Ancillary equipment and services (e.g., equipment cabinets and telephones)?
- Sufficient space for additional racks?

📡 Available Services

- Central switch connection required?
- Circuit options?
- Dark fiber leasing options?
- Layer 2 or layer 3 model?
- Peering LAN redundancy?
- Private network interconnections available?
- Wavelength options?

📶 Special Technical Requirements

- Available portal or website?
- Direct connection to ISP equipment, or meet-me-room?
- Layer 2 or 3 model?
- Peak and average Gbps?
- Quarantine VLAN?
- Total number of customer ports?
- Traffic filtering?

POLICY

The requirements for routing agreements between the IX and its members vary greatly. Find a set of regulations that work best for you.

- Access policies?
- Mandatory Multilateral Peering Agreement?
- Mandatory routing information and looking-glass sites?
- Member data confidentiality requirements?
- Membership: open, selective, or restrictive?
- Public routing and switch-port information?
- Right-of-First-Refusal option?