



IT

BUYING AI COMPUTING POWER?

Check workload, capacity, cost and flexibility before committing

DEFINE
THE WORKLOAD

CHOOSE
THE HARDWARE

COMPARE
PROVIDERS

CALCULATE
FULL COST

CHECK
FLEXIBILITY

REVIEW
THE RISK

A COMPUTE FUTURES CONTRACT DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCESS TO A GPU

WORKLOAD

- ☐ Define the business purpose of the AI workload
- ☐ Identify training, inference or both
- ☐ Estimate usage volume and variability
- ☐ Identify minimum performance requirements

HARDWARE

- ☐ Confirm suitable GPU types for the workload
- ☐ Check memory requirements
- ☐ Compare alternative hardware types
- ☐ Consider hardware obsolescence timeline

PROVIDER

- ☐ Compare several providers
- ☐ Check available region and data-centre location
- ☐ Check uptime and availability guarantees
- ☐ Check technical support
- ☐ Check security and compliance

ENERGY AND LOCATION

- ☐ Check energy assumptions and electricity cost
- ☐ Check data-centre location
- ☐ Check data-residency requirements
- ☐ Check environmental reporting availability

PRICE

- ☐ Compare on-demand pricing
- ☐ Compare reserved or committed pricing
- ☐ Include storage costs
- ☐ Include networking costs
- ☐ Include support costs

FLEXIBILITY

- ☐ Check minimum commitment period
- ☐ Check scaling rules and increments
- ☐ Check exit terms and penalties
- ☐ Check workload portability between providers

FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

- ☐ Understand the benchmark before relying on it
- ☐ Confirm regulatory status of any product
- ☐ Confirm cash or physical settlement
- ☐ Obtain specialist financial and legal advice

KEY DISTINCTIONS

- ☐ A reserved cloud contract provides capacity
- ☐ A futures contract provides price exposure only
- ☐ Financial contracts can lose money
- ☐ Compute futures require specialist governance

A FINANCIAL HEDGE MAY HELP MANAGE PRICE EXPOSURE. IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE SUITABLE COMPUTING CAPACITY.



