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European-relevant software tools & platforms for AEC (with European-ownership + European data-residency)

This overview provides a practical and non-exhaustive snapshot of software tools and platforms relevant to the European Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) sector, with particular attention to European market presence, ownership structures, and data-residency considerations.

The overview is not intended to promote or exclude vendors based on nationality or geography. Global and non-EU-owned solutions are included where they offer documented EU data-residency options and contractual controls that are commonly accepted in European projects.

The objective is transparency and informed choice — enabling project owners, clients, and delivery teams to understand:

- which solutions are developed and/or owned in Europe,
- which solutions provide EU-based hosting in practice, and
- where additional contractual verification is typically required (e.g. Data Processing Agreement (DPA), sub-processors, backups, and access controls).

1. Methodology and interpretation

The overview is based on publicly available vendor information (websites, privacy policies, product documentation) and common practices observed in European AEC procurements.

Hosting and data-resident statements are presented in simplified form for comparison purposes only. All such information should be verified in the applicable contract documents, including DPAs, service descriptions, and sub-processor lists.

The notations used (location, ownership, hosting model) are descriptive classifications, not quality assessments. They are intended to support comparisons across regulatory requirements, tender criteria, governance models, and organisational risk profiles — rather than to rank or recommend specific products.

The inclusion of a vendor or product does not imply endorsement, preference, or suitability for a specific project or regulatory context.

Notation used (in parentheses)

- Location
- Ownership
- Hosting:
 - EU-only available — Vendor states that customer data is stored and processed in EU/EEA data centres only (subject to contract/DPA)
 - EU option available — Vendor offers EU/EEA hosting as a selectable option or region (verify configuration, backups, and sub-processors)
 - EU/EEA stated, with caveats — Vendor indicates EU/EEA as primary location but allows exceptions (e.g. support, DR, optional regions)

- Unclear — verify in DPA — Public materials do not clearly state data-residency commitments.

For completeness, the overview distinguishes between EU/EEA-owned solutions and non-EU-owned solutions that offer explicit EU data-residency options, as both categories are commonly encountered in European AEC shortlists.

2. European AEC tools (selection)

2.1 BIM / CDE (Common Data Environment)

- ACCA – usBIM.platform (Italy (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: Unclear — verify in DPA) — BIM collaboration and document management platform.
- ALLPLAN (Germany (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: Product-dependent — verify per DPA) — BIM authoring and coordination tools.
- Asite – Asite CDE (United Kingdom (UK); Ownership: EU/EEA-owned; Hosting: EU-only available) — Common Data Environment for model and document collaboration.
- BIMcollab (KUBUS) (Netherlands (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: EU-only available) — Issue management and model coordination (BCF-based).
- bimplus (ALLPLAN / Nemetschek Group) (Germany (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: EU/EEA stated, with caveats) — CDE for BIM model and document collaboration.
- Buildercom (Project Bank) (Finland (EU); Ownership: EU-owned (PE-backed); Hosting: Unclear — verify in DPA) — Project information and document management platform.
- Byggnet (Sweden (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: EU-only available) — Project portal and document distribution platform.
- Catenda – Catenda Hub (Norway (EEA); Ownership: EU/EEA-owned (PE-backed); Hosting: EU option available) — openBIM-based CDE.
- CYPE – BIMserver.center (Spain (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: Unclear — verify in DPA) — BIM collaboration and model sharing platform.
- Dalux – Box / Field / InfraField (Denmark (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — CDE and field collaboration tools.
- Graphisoft – Archicad / BIMcloud (Hungary (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: Product-dependent — verify per deployment) — BIM authoring and collaboration.
- iBinder (Sweden (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — Project document and information management platform.
- Interaxo (Norway (EEA); Ownership: EU/EEA-owned; Hosting: Unclear — verify in DPA) — CDE for BIM, documents, and field collaboration.

- Novorender (Norway (EEA); Ownership: EU/EEA-owned; Hosting: EU/EEA stated, with caveats) — Large-model viewing and federation platform.
- Omega 365 (Norway (EEA); Ownership: EU/EEA-owned; Hosting: Unclear — verify in DPA) — Project controls and completion systems.
- StreamBIM (Rendra) (Norway (EEA); Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU/EEA stated, with caveats) — Model and document collaboration platform.
- thinkproject (Germany (EU); Ownership: EU-owned (PE-backed); Hosting: Unclear — verify in DPA) — CDE and project collaboration platform.

2.2 European AEC Cloud/IaaS providers for an “EU-only” base layer (if you self-host the CDE)

If you want European vendor + EU datacenters as the hosting layer (e.g., for a self-hosted CDE or strict sub-processing controls):

- Aruba Cloud (Italy (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: EU-only available; customer-selectable EU locations.).
- IONOS (Germany (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: EU-only available; DE/EU footprint.).
- OVHcloud (France (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: EU-only available depending on region selection.).
- Scaleway (France (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: EU-only available; regions in EU.).

Note: For all IaaS: validate backups/replication, admin access geography, and subcontractors.

2.3 BIM model QA

- Solibri (Finland (EU); Ownership: EU-owned; Hosting: N/A (desktop-based)) — Model checking and quality assurance.

2.4 Additional “field / site” platforms (often used alongside a CDE)

- Congrid (Finland (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: Unclear—verify in DPA — public privacy info does not clearly state EU-only region/DR in the excerpted policy.) — site quality/safety documentation.
- LetsBuild (Aproplan) (Belgium (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: Unclear—verify in DPA — privacy policy states third-party cloud servers but not EU-only specifics) — site reporting, quality, coordination.
- PlanRadar (Austria (EU); Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: EU-only available — PlanRadar states client data on servers in Germany (AWS); DPA examples reference Frankfurt region) — site documentation, defects, tasks.

2.5 European AEC cost / estimating / project controls (commercial)

- RIB Software (Germany (EU). Ownership: EU-owned. Hosting: Product-dependent — verify per iTWO/MTWO modules & DPA) — iTWO, enterprise cost/5D and project platforms.

3. Non-European-owned AEC tools with EU data-residency options

- Autodesk – Construction Cloud / BIM 360 /Revit / Navisworks (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — CDE and construction collaboration platform.
- Bentley – iTwin / ProjectWise (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — Infrastructure and project collaboration platforms.
- Bluebeam – Studio (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — Document collaboration and markup platform.
- MagiCAD (China; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: Unclear—verify in DPA (especially for MagiCAD Cloud components).) — MEP design/objects/workflows.
- Microsoft – SharePoint Online (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — Document management and collaboration platform.
- Novapoint (United States Ownership: Non-EU-owned (Trimble; acquired Vianova Systems). Hosting: N/A/varies — depends on deployment and connected services; verify in DPA when cloud components are used.) — civil/infrastructure design suite (Nordic-heavy).
- Oracle – Aconex (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — CDE and project controls platform.
- Revizto (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — BIM coordination and issue tracking.
- Tekla structures (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned (Trimble); Origin: Finland. Hosting: N/A (desktop); cloud collaboration typically via Trimble Connect.) — structural/detailing.
- Trimble – Trimble Connect (United States; Ownership: Non-EU-owned; Hosting: EU option available) — Model and document collaboration platform.

4. The use of overview

The European AEC market today is characterised by a diverse ecosystem of both European and globally owned digital platforms, many of which can support projects with high requirements for data protection, information governance, and regulatory compliance.

The choice between European-owned and globally owned solutions should not be ideological, but based on project-specific requirements, contractual safeguards, organisational risk tolerance, and long-term operational considerations — including openness,

standards support and exit strategies. Always verify sub-processors, admin/support access, backups/DR, and cross-border transfer terms in the contracts.

This overview is therefore intended as a working reference and dialogue tool, supporting structured discussions with vendors and informed decision-making, rather than as a closed or prescriptive recommendation list.

This overview does not:

- replace market dialogue, legal review, or formal procurement procedures.
- assess performance, user experience, or implementation maturity.

Commercial terms, functional depth, integrations, and usability are outside the scope of this overview.

4.1 A short “EU-hosted in practice” due diligence checklist (ask for written proof)

1. Data residency: “EU-only” and (if needed) country-specific (DE/NL/DK etc.).
2. Sub-processors: who hosts it, and can region be locked contractually?
3. Backups & DR: are replicas/backups also in the EU/EEA (not just primary)?
4. Encryption: in transit + at rest; who controls keys (vendor-managed vs customer-managed)?
5. Access & support: where can administrators/support staff access from (and under what controls/logging)?
6. Export & exit: IFC/BCF/PDF/native + metadata + audit logs; deletion certificates; lock-in risk.
7. Standards & assurance: ISO 19650 alignment (process), ISO 27001 (security), and clear breach/incident SLAs.

Colophon

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