

Calif. Firm Buys City Data Center

By VIC BRADSHAW

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HARRISONBURG — A California company has purchased a city data center for \$59 million.

GI DC Harrisonburg LLC bought the data center at 139 N. Tyco St. from DBT-Data BRDC LLC, according to a deed recorded on Sept. 10 at the Rockingham County Courthouse.

The nearly 13-acre property is located off Main Street in the north end of Harrisonburg.

DBT Data first bought the property in 2008 and sold it to Harris Corp. two years later for \$41.6 million. Harris, a Florida-based billion dollar communications and information technology firm, invested \$22 million in the facility for use as a cloud data storage center.

Harris abandoned the plans and sold the property back to former owner David Tolson, president of DBT Data, for \$35 million in August 2013.

Exactly which company is behind the LLC that bought it from Tolson could not be confirmed Wednesday.

However, an office listed as the principal address for the company — 188 The Embarcadero, Suite 700, San Francisco — on the website bizapedia.com is for the offices of GI Partners.

GI DC Registered As Company In July

Messages left for GI Partners on Wednesday were not returned, and Tolson did not return phone messages seeking comment. Brian Shull, the city's economic development director, said Wednesday evening that he was aware that the property had been sold but could not comment on the buyer. Dennis Burnett, executive director of the regional economic development group Shenandoah Valley Partnership, said he was aware the property had been sold but was given no further information.

GI Has IT Focus

State Corporation Commission records list Richmond-based Corporation Service Co. as the registered agent for GI DC Harrisonburg LLC, which registered as a company in Virginia on July 30. Corporate Service Co. provides various services for companies, including serving as a registered agent.

The website for GI Partners indicates that the company is a private equity investment firm headquartered in Menlo Park, Calif.

Information technology infrastructure and services is among the four key industry sectors in

which it is involved.

Tolson's company, a real estate investment and development firm focused on technology-related properties, marketed the Tyco Street facility as a "cyber integration center."

Officials with Google Inc., which San Francisco media outlets reported in July had purchased 188 The Embarcadero, also did not return messages seeking comment on whether the search engine giant had any connections to the deal.

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