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Federal Monies To Expand State's EV Battery Manufacturing Footprint

More than a third of a billion dollars in federal funding will be boosting electric vehicle battery manufacturing projects across Michigan, officials announced on Friday.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced Friday \$355 million in funding will be provided to multiple companies in Michigan to build upon efforts at expanding manufacturing of electric vehicle batteries and materials during the transition to EVs.

Officials estimated the projects would lead to 1,435 construction jobs and 929 permanent jobs.

The funding for Michigan was part of a Department of Energy announcement totaling \$3 billion split between 14 states through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, passed by Congress in 2021.

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#) in a statement praised the federal monies, saying Michigan is a leader in the shift to renewable energy and electric vehicle manufacturing.

"With this historic funding from the Biden-Harris administration and our congressional delegation, we are expanding our production of batteries for electric vehicles and clean energy storage, solidifying our position as a leader in advanced manufacturing and clean energy," Whitmer said.

State funding through the Michigan Infrastructure Office's Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund will be used to leverage the federal spending, officials said.

Houghton-based Revex Technologies will receive \$145 million in federal dollars and up to \$50 million in state funding for the construction of

three facilities in Marquette. The facilities will convert items including mine tailings and spent batteries into what it called valuable materials. The project is expected to lead to 360 construction jobs over a two-year project period as well as help retain 425 jobs and add 115 new jobs.

A total of \$100 million in federal funding and up to \$25 million in state monies will be going to California-based batteries material company MitraChem for the construction of a modular plant in Muskegon. The plant will develop lithium iron phosphate for domestic manufacturing of energy storage systems and electric vehicles. The project is expected to lead to 625 construction jobs and 154 permanent jobs.

Chicago-based NanoGraf Corporation, a battery manufacturer, will receive \$60 million in federal dollars and up to \$15 million in state funding for expanding its existing Flint facility to expand manufacturing of high-performance silicon monoxide anode materials for the development of EV batteries. The project is expected to lead to 200 construction jobs as well as up to 150 permanent jobs.

Cabot Corporation, a Boston-based chemical and performance materials company, will receive \$50 million in federal funding to build a manufacturing facility in Wayne County. The specific site location was not listed. A total of 250 construction jobs and 85 permanent jobs are expected from the project.

Officials quickly praised the announcement in Friday statements.

"These investments are a game-changer for battery manufacturing in Michigan and will create hundreds of good-paying jobs in communities throughout our state," [U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow](#) (D-Lansing) said.

[U.S. Sen. Gary Peters](#) (D-Bloomfield Township) agreed.

"Thanks to the Investing in America agenda, Michigan is poised to see over \$1 billion more in public-private investment, creating hundreds of new jobs for workers across the state who are essential to ensuring our national energy security," Peters said.

[U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee](#) (D-Flint Township) said he was proud to have supported the federal infrastructure law that made the spending possible.

"These investments are helping to bring manufacturing jobs back to Michigan and ensure the future of electric vehicles are produced in America, not China," Kildee said.

Michigan Infrastructure Office Director Zachary Kolodin the federal spending has "kicked off a manufacturing boom here in America" and that Michigan has been able to take advantage.

"These investments demonstrate that Michigan is the beating heart of the battery belt," Kolodin said. "Investing in manufacturing of batteries mean that our auto industry and our energy sector can depend on domestic production sources, reducing our reliance on foreign sources and creating good-paying jobs right here in Michigan."

–By Nick Smith

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