

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEAL OF THE YEAR

## GOLD AWARD

*Electric-car pioneer Tesla's 5-million-square-foot lithium battery Gigafactory moves the Reno-Sparks region into the top tier of advanced manufacturing leaders.*



### PROJECT TITLE: TESLA'S GIGAFACTORY

### ENTERED BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF WESTERN NEVADA

Tesla's \$5-billion Gigafactory—the most hotly contested economic development project in years—has earned the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) the Gold Award in *Business Facilities'* 2014 Economic Development Deal of the Year competition.

The largest lithium battery production plant in the world will rise on a site near Reno, NV, creating 13,614 direct and indirect jobs—with \$1.6 billion in economic impact for the region—in the next two years alone [the projection for 20 years approaches \$40 billion in direct impact and \$100 billion in overall impact]. The plant is expected to create nearly \$370 million in direct annual wages during the next 20 years.

Nearly 13,000 construction workers will be employed on the project and related development; about 3,000 of them already are busy building the 5 million-square-foot, solar-powered Gigafactory, which from the air will look like the largest mirror on Earth

due to the photovoltaic panels that will cover its roof.

Overall, Tesla's Gigafactory is expected to lift state employment by two percent and regional employment by 10 percent, a tremendous windfall for Nevada, a state that took one of the biggest hits from the housing market collapse in the Great Recession.

Landing Tesla's mega-project was a team effort involving EDAWN, Storey County, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the City of Reno.

### A DEAL THAT 'CHANGES THE WORLD'

When the deal was announced in September, Gov. Brian Sandoval declared that the Gigafactory not only will be an advanced manufacturing game-changer for the region, but a development that will "change the world."

"Tesla will build the world's most advanced battery factory in Nevada, which means nearly \$100 billion in economic impact to the Silver State in the next 20 years," Gov. Sandoval said. "I am

grateful that Tesla saw the promise in Nevada. These 21st century pioneers, fueled with innovation and desire, are emboldened by the promise of Nevada to change the world. Nevada is ready to lead."

EDAWN President and CEO Michael Kamierski called Tesla's decision a "once-in-a-lifetime" event.

"Rarely in the world of economic development does a single event change a community so much, so quickly," Kazmierski said. "This single event will move Reno-Sparks, as a metropolitan area, into the top 100. We will no longer be the 'best kept secret' as a great place to live, work and play. More projects will follow Tesla as they come to see the real Reno-Sparks."

Just about every state in the Southwest, from Texas to California, threw its hat into the ring when Tesla founder Elon Musk announced that the electric carmaker's new battery plant would be big enough to supply the entire automotive industry.