



Automotive



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Electric Vehicles and Battery Supply-Chain

The historic announcement in 2024 that Somerset is the chosen location for one of Europe's largest gigafactories has the potential to transform the region's profile as a major hub for electric vehicles and battery supply-chain.



In March 2024, Tata Group, the owner of Jaguar Land Rover, announced plans to build a new multibillion-pound electric vehicle battery factory in Somerset. The £4 billion factory is one of the largest ever investments in the UK automotive sector and will create up to 4,000 new direct jobs and thousands more in the wider supply chain.

The factory will supply JLR's future battery electric models including the Range Rover, Defender, Discovery and Jaguar brands, with the potential to also supply other car manufacturers. Production at the new gigafactory is due to start in 2026. The gigafactory would provide almost half of the battery production needed by 2030 and would be one of the largest in Europe.

At the heart of Somerset's future mobility and battery supply-chain opportunity is Gravity, the 616-acre smart campus near Bridgwater, which has designated Enterprise Zone status until 2042. The campus is being targeted at cutting edge test bed technologies that are helping to decarbonise our economy.

Local colleges and universities will play a major role in ensuring a great pipeline of future talent supports future mobility businesses based in Somerset. The developers of Gravity have produced a skills plan that includes working with local schools, strategic linkages into Bridgwater and Taunton College and the wider training and academic network, to ensure support and training for the new workforce.