



**City of De Soto is Planned Site for New EV Battery Manufacturing Facility**  
*Facility to be located on former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant site*

De Soto, Kansas – July 14, 2022 – The world's largest Electric Vehicle manufacturing facility will be built on the site of the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, Governor Laura Kelly announced Wednesday night.

The Panasonic Energy Co. facility represents a \$4 billion investment in the region and is expected to bring 4,000 skilled jobs to the area. This is the largest economic development project in state history.

“We have truly come full circle. Eighty years ago, the world’s largest smokeless powder plant was established here, just south of De Soto. At that time, we were doing our part to protect our country and strengthen our national defense,” said Rick Walker, Mayor of De Soto. “Now we have an opportunity to bring the property back to productive use. We’re incredibly proud that the site of the former Army ammunitions plant will help support efforts to produce clean energy – and once again serve as an economic engine for the region.”

City Administrator Mike Brungardt said the facility is expected to open in July 2024 and provide well-paying advanced manufacturing careers for workers of all skill levels.

“The size of the project, the scope of its long-term employment profile, and the spinoff economic impacts put Kansas and De Soto on a global stage and will offer life-changing opportunities to thousands of individuals and families throughout the region,” said Brungardt.

Sara Ritter, De Soto Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council President said, “We are thrilled for the local businesses in the area that will flourish from what Panasonic is bringing to our community. Along with all the entities that helped bring Panasonic to the region, we will be an example of how cooperative economic development can attract mega companies.”

**About the Sunflower Plant**

The Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant was built in 1941 and was in active use during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The site is being remediated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In 2005, the U.S. Army transferred the former plant site to the Sunflower Redevelopment Group (SRL); in 2022, over 6,000 acres of the site were annexed into De Soto.

“SRL is pleased that, after a quarter of a century of inactivity, a significant portion of the iconic and historically significant Sunflower Property will again provide manufacturing jobs, tax revenue, and additional opportunities to the citizens of the state of Kansas,” said Chuck Hunter, Principal with Sunflower Redevelopment, LLC. “This mega-plant and the ancillary businesses that it will attract would not have been possible without the coordinated, creative, and dedicated efforts of Governor Laura Kelly, Lieutenant Governor Toland, and a bipartisan group of Kansas legislators. And of course, the vision and leadership of Mayor Walker, the City of De Soto’s Governing Body, and the EDC were indispensable in this endeavor.”

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