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February 2025

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Trump has threatened to place a 25% tariff on all goods coming in from Canada, as well as Mexico. Trump told reporters on January 23 in the Oval Office he plans to impose the tariffs on February 1, as previously mentioned.

In an interview with Agence Frence-Presse (AFP) (Paris, France), former member of President Ronald Reagan's administration and informal Trump economic advisor Arthur Laffer said the threat was a negotiation tactic: "He's using trade as a tool to exact other policies. It's his leverage."

For more information on Trump's potential tariffs, see Industrial Info's January 22, 2025, article - Canada Spared from Trump's Tariffs, for Now.

Divisions within the Canadian government emerged regarding Canada's response to the tariff threat. Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland resigned in December and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau later said he plans to resign once a new party leader is named. For more information, see January 17, 2025, article - Alberta Refuses to Endorse Canadian Trade Response.

Ontario is the main hub for Canada's automotive industry. As a province, it is the third-largest trading partner with the U.S.--including the top foreign partner with 17 states--Ontario Premier Doug Ford said in an interview with CNBC. In addition, Ontario is the country's most populous province.

Ford said raw materials and parts often move across the border multiple times before being used in the final assembly of a vehicle and the tariffs would increase prices, which could then slow production and eliminate jobs.

Ford, who has a majority government, told reporters on January 24 that he would call an early election because he needs a mandate to combat Trump's tariffs. Ontarians would be headed to the polls on February 27, more than a year before the current election date set for June 2026.

Canadian exports of auto parts came in at US$23.5 billion in 2023, while exports of light vehicles totaled US$53.5 billion, according to Canada-based DesRosiers Automotive Consultants. Imports totaled US$47.5 billion and US$70.4 billion, respectively. Of those, the U.S. accounts for 95.3% of Canada's total auto exports and 57.7% of its overall auto imports.

Industrial Info is tracking US$12 billion worth of automotive projects under construction in Canada--buoyed by several investments in Ontario worth more than US$1 billion.

The highest-valued project is Volkswagen AG's (Wolfsburg, Germany) **US$5 billion electric vehicle (EV) battery cell-manufacturing plant in Saint Thomas, Ontario**, which would be operated by Volkswagen's battery company PowerCo SE. The 3 million-square-foot plant is designed to feature six production blocks with an annual production capacity of up to 90 gigawatt-hours (Gwh), enough to produce over 1 million EVs.

"The ramp-up of gigafactory St. Thomas is fully on track. Site preparation has already been completed," PowerCo said in an August statement. "We aim to produce the first cells in 2027, followed by demand-based ramp-up of mass production."

Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Industrial Manufacturing Project Database can click here to read more information on the project.

Meanwhile, high-dollar projects involving Stellantis (NYSE:STLA) (Amsterdam, Netherlands) are wrapping up.

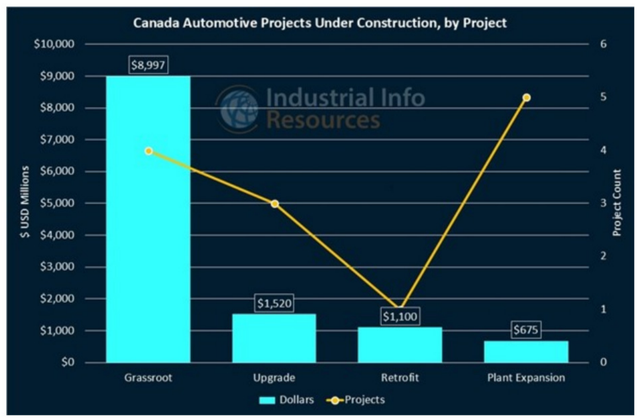
A joint venture (NextStar Energy) between Stellantis and LG Energy Solution Limited (LGES) (Seoul, South Korea) is building a **US$3.6 billion EV battery-manufacturing plant in Windsor, Ontario**, which sits across the border from Detroit, Michigan. The plant is expected to supply 45 GWh per year of batteries for Stellantis' plants.

Production of battery modules, which are grouped together to form battery packs, is underway, while battery-cell manufacturing is expected to begin later this year when construction is complete. Click here to read the project report.

A standalone Stellantis project is designed to support production of both internal combustion engine vehicles and EVs: a **US$1.1 billion retool at its assembly plant in Brampton, Ontario** will be performed in multiple phases, and production is expected to resume later this year. Work at the 2.95 million-square-foot plant will allow the automaker to build its next-generation, all-electric Jeep Compass, among other models. Subscribers can click here to read a detailed project report.

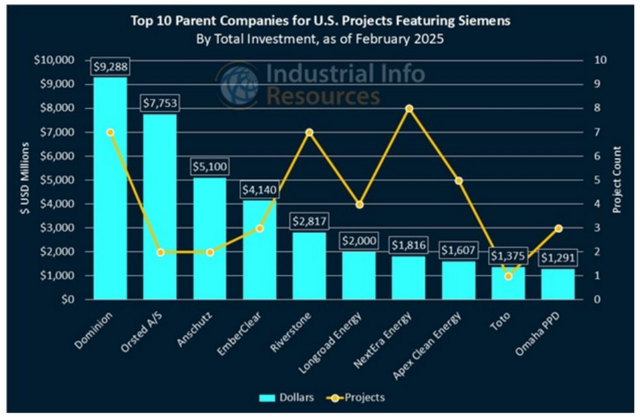
Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project Database can click here for a full list of detailed reports for projects mentioned in this article, and click here for a list of related plant profiles.

Click here for a full list of automotive projects under construction in Canada.



Siemens Sees Opportunity in Trump’s Gas-Fired Development Push

Donald Trump's new administration was on everyone's mind last month in Davos, Switzerland, as some of the biggest names in global finance met to parse the economic future. One executive from Siemens Energy (Munich, Germany) was upbeat about his company's near-term prospects--specifically, Trump's push for stronger U.S.-based artificial intelligence (AI) development, which likely will increase domestic demand for Siemens' steam and natural gas-fired turbines. Industrial Info is tracking about $59 billion worth of active and proposed projects in the U.S. Power and Industrial Manufacturing industries featuring Siemens' services, nearly $30 billion of which are nearing or under construction.



Two days after taking office, Trump highlighted the "Stargate" joint venture among OpenAI, Oracle and SoftBank that plans to invest as much as $500 billion in infrastructure for AI-oriented data centers in Texas. Such facilities typically consume massive amounts of power and have heightened the need for dispatchable energy in their surrounding areas.
Joe Kaeser, who chairs the supervisory board for Siemens, said his company was "in the sweet spot" to benefit from the rapidly growing presence of data centers--particularly those focused on AI--in the U.S., as their need for reliable energy capacity "brought a boom to all energy companies, which is second to none."

Although Siemens is not currently attached to the Stargate development, it is expanding its U.S.-based production of the equipment and facilities needed to keep such projects active. Siemens recently began work on a **$149.9 million expansion of its steam gas turbine and generator manufacturing facility in Charlotte, North Carolina**, to meet the growing domestic demand for large power transformers that convert high-voltage electricity into lower voltages. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Industrial Manufacturing Project and Plant databases can learn more from a detailed project report and plant profile.

On the power-generation side, Siemens is attached to about $3.9 billion worth of fossil fuel-powered projects across the U.S. that are nearing or under construction. This includes several projects in Texas, such as NRG Energy Incorporated's (NYSE:NRG) (Houston) **$300 million addition of two turbines at its T.H. Wharton Power Plant in Houston**. NRG is installing a pair of Siemens SGT6-5000F models, each of which will have a 188-megawatt (MW) capacity. Subscribers can learn more from a detailed project report and plant profile.

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) also is using SGT6-5000F turbines for its **$800 million Turtle Creek Power Station in Springfield, Nebraska**, which is nearing completion. The two simple-cycle units will generate 225 MW each. Subscribers can learn more from a detailed project report and plant profile.

“These engines are part of the larger system expansion our community is demanding, from more high-voltage transmission to more generators," said Brad Underwood, the vice president of systems transformation for OPPD, last year to *Power Engineering*. “We modeled all types of generation and energy-storage options that are consistent with that commitment, without sacrificing affordability and reliability for our customers. The new combustion turbines are part of that journey."

Among the most anticipated projects featuring Siemens' services is the **$1.2 billion Trumbull Energy Center in Lordstown, Ohio**, a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle (NGCC) plant that is expected to generate 950 MW from two combustion turbines and a steam turbine, all provided by Siemens. Last year, developer Clean Energy Future LLC (Manchester, Massachusetts) agreed to sell the project to ArcLight Capital Partners LLC (Boston, Massachusetts). Subscribers can learn more from a detailed project report.

Steven Remillard, the chief operating officer of Trumbull Asset Management, told *The Business Journal* in 2023 that the Trumbull project is a net positive for northeastern Ohio: "We've got a lot of aging power plants, so with the abundant, low-cost natural gas in the region, these types of projects and plants are very compact, but could produce a lot of clean, environmentally friendly energy, which can help to keep the electric rates low for the consumers, but could also help provide a lot of reliable electricity to support increased development."

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project and Plant databases can click here for a full list of detailed reports for projects mentioned in this article, and click here for a full list of related plant profiles.

Subscribers can click here for a full list of reports for active and proposed projects in the U.S. Power and Industrial Manufacturing industries featuring Siemens' services.

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North America to Get First New Salt Mine in Decades

The salt-mining sector plays an important role in the North American Metals & Minerals Industry. Salt is used not only for food but also for de-icing roads and as a raw material for manufacturing chemicals such as chlorine, caustic soda and soda ash. North America's vast salt deposits make the continent self-sufficient for salt production. Industrial Info is tracking more than $1 billion worth of active projects involving salt mining. Currently on the table is what is expected to be the first new salt mine in North America in 30 years.

The grassroot mine in question will be at the Great Atlantic Salt (GAS) deposit in western Newfoundland, a salt resource discovered through oil and gas exploration that has a verified reserve of 383 million metric tons and inferred resources of 868 million tons. The mine initially will produce 2.5 million tons per year of rock salt that will be used for de-icing roads over a 34-year mine life.
However, the mine could last longer than that. A few years after initial operations, the developer of the GAS deposit, Atlas Salt Incorporated (St. John's, Newfoundland) plans to launch an expansion that would boost production to 4 million tons per year and extend the mine's life to 47.5 years. Initial development of the mine is expected to start early next year, with first production in mid-2029. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Project Database can learn more by viewing the reports on the initial construction and expansion.

Another Newfoundland salt project is expected in the more distant future when Atco Mining Incorporated (Vancouver, British Columbia) begins developing its Eagle Salt Project, which is located near other ATCO salt projects. The Eagle mineral claims include more than 10,000 hectares, and ATCO intends to develop the site as a solution salt cavern, enabling the production of road salt and also salt domes for potential hydrogen storage. Work could begin in 2034, and the property is expected to take two years to develop before production begins. Subscribers can click here to learn more about the project.

Some of the U.S.' biggest salt deposits are in Louisiana, where Compass Minerals International Incorporated (NYSE:CMP) (Overland Park, Kansas) is preparing to descend to lower production depths at an existing mine. At the Cote Blanche room and pillar mine operation, Compass will build a ramp from the current 1,500-foot level to 1,700 feet, relocating the underground mill in order to access deeper reserves and maintain the mine's production of 2.2 million tons per year from 2032 through 2068. The project is expected to kick off in 2027 and be completed by the end of 2031, allowing Compass to maintain steady production from the mine. Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project Database can click here for more details on the project.

Compass is underway with a project at a facility near Goderich, Ontario, also to maintain the mine's output. Since 2022, Compass has been replacing seven continuous miners to maintain production of 6.5 million tons of salt per year. A continuous miner is a single machine that performs multiple functions, including cutting, loading, and conveying mined material. Replacement of the last miner is expected to be completed in 2026. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the project report.

Another project to maintain consistent production is occurring at Cargill Salt Incorporated's (Wayzata, Minnesota) site in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, where the company in 2024 started a three- to five-year project to modernize the salt evaporation processing plant, replacing outdated manufacturing equipment with more productive machinery to efficiently sustain the facility's production of 250,000 tons of salt per year. Subscribers can click here to learn more.

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Database can click here to view reports for all of the projects discussed in this article and click here for the related plant profiles.

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Join IIR for Our Refining, Alternative Fuels & Crude Markets Industrial Outlook

On March 12, Industrial Info's industry experts will present a complimentary webinar on the global project outlook for the refining, alternative fuels and crude oil markets sectors. Particular focus will be made on environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives, maintenance spending, and challenges facing these sectors.
Topics will include:

- Refinery adaptations to geopolitical tensions
- Planned maintenance activities
- A global grassroot refinery outlook
- Investment prospects in renewable fuels (diesel and sustainable aviation fuel)

We hope that you are able to join us for this timely and informative webinar. The presentation will begin at 10 a.m. CST (11 a.m. EST) on Wednesday, March 12, and will be followed by a brief question and answer session. Click here to learn more and to RSVP!