

The Buffalo High-Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub at RiverBend



- The Buffalo High-Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub at RiverBend is a clean energy, high-tech manufacturing and innovation complex established as part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Buffalo Billion strategy.
- RiverBend is a nearly 200-acre site that was formerly occupied by Republic Steel.
- New York State is building a state-of-the-art facility to house SolarCity's GigaFactory, the largest solar panel manufacturing operation in the Western Hemisphere, occupying a 23-acre footprint at RiverBend.
- Governor Cuomo announced the Buffalo High-Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub at RiverBend on November 21, 2013 and broke ground on September 23, 2014.
- New York State will invest \$500 million from the Buffalo Billion (\$350 million in capital funding; \$150 million in tax breaks) and \$250 million from other state sources to establish infrastructure at the site (water, sewer, utility, roads), construct a 1.2 million square foot manufacturing facility, and purchase equipment required for the facility. The property, facility and equipment will be owned by New York State through the State University of New York Polytechnic Institute and no subsidy will be provided by the state to SolarCity.
- The state investment replicates the model created in Albany at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, where, rather than giving money directly to private companies, the state invests in core infrastructure and equipment and uses that equipment as the incentive to attract companies to establish themselves in these new high-tech facilities.
- SolarCity is America's number one full-service solar provider and in 2014 purchased Silevo, a company that had been originally designated to occupy the state-owned manufacturing facility at RiverBend.
- Silevo develops and manufactures silicon solar cells and modules.

- SolarCity will invest \$5 billion in combined capital, operational expenses and other costs during the 10 year period following full production and create over 1,460 direct manufacturing jobs at the new facility and more than 1,440 manufacturing support and service provider jobs. In addition, SolarCity will create approximately 2,000 additional workers in the state to provide solar panel installation services for five years after completion of the manufacturing facility.
- The facility will produce Silevo's high-technology Triex solar panel technology in high volumes, averaging at full production approximately 10,000 solar panels manufactured every day.
- SolarCity anticipates that the manufacturing facility will be completed and ready to commence operations in the first quarter of 2016, pending unforeseen delays such as construction and/or engineering issues or work stoppages and/or labor disruptions, weather, natural disasters, etc.
- Full production output is expected to be reached by the first quarter of 2017.
- Buffalo-based LPCiminelli is Construction Manager for the project. CHA is the project engineer and EYP the project designer.