Meta is building an $800M data center in Montgomery

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Montgomery Advertiser | USA TODAY NETWORK

Information technology giant Meta is coming to Montgomery.

The social media company formerly known as Facebook Inc. announced the $800 million data center Thursday alongside state and local officials. The center will also bring 100 jobs to the city.

Meta's new 715,000-square-foot, AI-optimized data center will be built off Interstate 65 in Montgomery, across from the Hyundai automotive assembly plant. It will join the company's other Alabama data center campus, which is located in Huntsville and represents an investment of $1.5 billion.


Davis


Reed

"Each day, millions of people around the world use Meta's products, and the next-generation Alabama data center in Montgomery will soon help keep the company's popular platforms running smoothly," Gov. Kay Ivey said at a Thursday morning news conference at Montgomery Whitewater Park. "Meta is putting down roots in another great location in Sweet Home Alabama, and we're committed to helping the company grow and prosper here."

California-based Meta also owns and operates Facebook, Instagram, Threads and WhatsApp.

The Montgomery data center, reflecting Meta's latest design, will be its 24th data hub and the 20th in the United States. Once operational, the facility will be LEED Gold certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. It will be supported by 100% renewable energy and reach net zero emissions, officials said.

"We are thrilled to announce our newest data center will be located in Montgomery. The city — and our specific location — offers great access to infrastructure and renewable energy, a strong pull of talent and most importantly, an amazing set of community partners," said Brad Davis, director of community and economic development at Meta. "We look forward to having a strong partnership for years to come."

Work at the site is already underway ahead of construction. More than 1,000 construction workers are expected to be on site at its peak, according to Meta. The facility is expected to go online at the end of 2026.

"Meta is a globally recognized brand, and having this world-class technology company launch another investment project in Alabama clearly demonstrates the state's attractiveness to the high-tech sector around the world," said Ellen McNair, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce. "We look forward to building on the close relationship we've developed with Meta to set the stage for even more growth in our state."

The news was applauded by local officials.

"Meta's decision to expand into Montgomery with a state-of-the-art data center showcases how our region is diversifying into a knowledge-based economy and highlights the competitiveness of Montgomery and our economic development team," Montgomery Mayor Steven L. Reed said. "This initiative marks a pivotal moment for Central Alabama and serves as a catalyst for our entire region's pursuit of knowledge-based employment opportunities."

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The center will have an impact across the region, Montgomery County Commission Chairman Doug Singleton said.

"This project will have an enormous impact on Montgomery, and I am honored to welcome Meta to our community," he said. "This project is truly a victory for Montgomery as we experience continued economic growth year after year. This investment of $840 million speaks volumes to the commitment that Meta is making to the people of Montgomery.

"The significance of this announcement being made at our Whitewater Park facility cannot be overstated. The Meta team was introduced to Montgomery Whitewater early in the recruitment process, and I am glad to see that they have chosen to come back again as this venue has become instrumental in attracting international businesses to our community."

Caryn Hughes, chair of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, underscored the importance of collaboration among economic development agencies in bringing the Meta project to fruition and commended the local economic development team on the years of hard work it took to win this project.

"We value the significant impact such investments have on our capital city," Hughes said. "This facility will signify an economic investment exceeding $800 million upon completion and create over 100 new knowledge-based jobs for our region."

Meta, then known as Facebook, announced plans for its first data center in Huntsville back in 2018, and the facility began serving traffic three years later. Since then, the company has added new buildings to the campus' footprint, doubling its initial investment to about $1.5 billion and increasing its workforce to over 300 operational jobs.

Meta's sustainability practices have generated investments in renewable energy projects, and it has also supported Huntsville area schools and educational organizations with over 85 grants and sponsorships exceeding $4.2 million since 2019, according to the company.

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