

State News for NSPE Members

Tennessee Municipalities Get \$17M to Prepare Sites for Businesses

Tennessee is sending \$17 million in taxpayer funds to communities throughout the state to build out infrastructure on vacant sites being prepared for future businesses, [The Center Square reports](#).

The largest grant is more than \$4.5 million to Crossville for speculative building construction at Interchange Business Park. The second largest grant is \$4.5 million to Lawrence County to buy land and install water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical infrastructure at the Lawrenceburg Industrial Park.

The grants are part of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Site Development Grant program, which has spent almost \$100 million in grants since it began in 2016.

The grants also include a nearly \$1.7 million grant to Columbia for electrical infrastructure at the Columbia Tennessee Rail Site and \$1 million to Pulaski and Giles counties for property grading at the Dan Speer Industrial Park South.

Other grants include access road construction (\$984,752) at Athens McMinn Innovation Park in McMinn County, electrical infrastructure at Macon-Lafayette Industrial Park in Macon County, sewer infrastructure (\$843,535) at the Decatur County Industrial Site in Decatur County and \$829,452 for a project including access road construction, property grading and both water and sewer infrastructure at the Huntingdon Industrial Park South. [Read more](#).

Memphis Could Get World's Most Potent Supercomputer

Memphis, Tennessee's local government has revealed xAI's intentions to build what they're calling the "world's largest supercomputer" within the city limits, [Interesting Engineering reports](#).

Elon Musk's ventures continue to push the boundaries of technology, and his artificial intelligence (AI) company, xAI, is no exception. In a recent development, Memphis, Tennessee, has emerged as a frontrunner to house what could be the world's largest supercomputer, dubbed the "Gigafactory of Compute." This massive project promises a significant boost to the city's economy and technological prowess, but it's still in its early stages, with several hurdles to overcome.

The Memphis Shelby County Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and governing authorities hold the key to finalizing the project. If approved, it would be the largest investment in Memphis history. According to Memphis Mayor Paul Young, the city boasts "an ideal site, ripe for investment," coupled with a skilled workforce that can "keep up with the pace required to land this transformational project, the *Business Insider* reported.

The supercomputer itself is expected to be a technological marvel. It will be powered by 100,000 Nvidia's H100 GPUs, currently some of the most sought-after chips in the AI industry, as reported by *The Information*. [Read more](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .

Get Enlightened and Inspired at NSPECon24



NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9) is the prime national event for professional engineers – [Register by June 27 for early bird discount rates, a savings of \\$100](#) .

The conference will feature keynote speakers to provide inspiration and guidance to help elevate your career in addition to putting a spotlight on emerging issues within the industry.



Richie Parker, MBA, cofounder of Optimech Solutions, chief of staff of the University of Virginia football program, and former manager of government projects at Hendrick Motorsports, will open the conference with the session **“Drive to Innovate.”** He has been profiled by ESPN and often speaks to organizations about overcoming obstacles and facing adversity.



Paul Doherty, chairman and CEO of The Digit Group, will present the session **“Unlocking the Metaverse: AI, Engineering the Future of Our Industry”** to provide insight on emerging technologies and explore real-world solutions and projects that are challenging our industry.



Dan Heath, author and senior fellow, The Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE), Duke University, will present the session **“RESET: How to Change What’s Not Working”** to explore a framework for getting unstuck and making the changes that matter. Stay tuned for details on the opening keynote speaker.

Access the [NSPECon24 program](#) for more details on the keynote speakers and session topics.

Interested in supporting through sponsorship or exhibiting? NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses. Learn more about these opportunities in the [Sponsor and Exhibitor section of the conference website](#) .

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NSPE's Focus on Fostering Inclusivity and Professionalism

Inaugural Leadership Institute for Women PEs

NSPE's Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the [Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers](#), a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECon24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECon24 to attend the institute. [Access more information and register.](#)

DEI or 'die'—a Noteworthy Discussion

On June 12, NSPE's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Advisory Committee hosted a live webinar on the important topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the engineering profession. The presenters explored perspectives from engineers with diverse life experiences and discussed how including these voices can impact engineering practices and public safety. This thought-provoking webinar will challenge the notion of 'best and brightest' and underscore the importance of diverse viewpoints in engineering solutions. [Members can access a recording free of charge](#).

New Resource to Attract and Retain Engineering Talent

A talent focused environment where the most skilled engineers succeed is crucial for driving creativity and problem-solving. NSPE has released the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Glossary of Terms](#), a valuable resource designed to provide a common understanding of essential workforce inclusivity terms, facilitating more effective and respectful discussions about talent acquisition, development, and collaboration across the engineering community. This glossary is the culmination of the dedicated work by the 2023-2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee to provide a tool for respectful communication, reinforcing NSPE's core value of "Unity." Access more information and resources [here](#).

Spring Webinar Series On-Demand

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"Workability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. Did you miss any of our spring webinars? No worries! The following sessions are now available on-demand:

- NSPE's Board of Ethic Review



Presents: The Duty to Act

- Second Best Protection Against Risk
- Enhancing Building Safety: Mitigating Risks of Slips, Trips, and Falls Access
- Lidar Illuminated: Revolutionizing Engineering Design and Building Analysis
- Designing Fire Protection Systems - The Role of the Engineer and Engineering Technician
- DEI or 'die'—a Noteworthy Discussion.

[Access the webinars at NSPE's PE Institute.](#)

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