



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

MESA, AZ

THE OPTIMAL LOCATION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE COMPANIES

"The Phoenix-Mesa metro area was a natural choice for our U.S. home, and we're thrilled to become a part of the innovative business community. The region is ripe with potential manufacturing partners and suppliers, and its competitive talent pipeline will support our continued growth. The City of Mesa has welcomed our vision and we look forward to building on the city's enthusiasm for electric vehicles. There are a lot of electric vehicle owners in Arizona!"

– Sue Ozdemir, CEO, Exro Technologies





► Daicel manufactures airbag initiators at its Mesa facility.



► Exro Technologies, a leading clean-tech developer and manufacturer of a new class of power electronics for electric motors and batteries, moved its headquarters and production facility to Mesa in 2021.

Arizona ranks 7th in the nation for its number of registered electric vehicles and more than 115 automotive suppliers operate in the Phoenix-Mesa metro area.ⁱ

A Magnet for Innovation

Mesa has become a global powerhouse in aerospace, defense, and technology. Industry leaders such as Apple, Boeing, Facebook/Meta, Hyundai Transys, Virgin Galactic, Mitsubishi Gas Chemical, Bridgestone Corporation, Northrop Grumman, and many others have located major operations in Mesa, with many more in the works. Today, with the region's longstanding automotive industry R&D infrastructure, electric vehicle manufacturing – from batteries to parts to vehicles – is fast becoming a burgeoning industry here. Arizona is a magnet for auto innovation and Mesa is right at the center.

A Sustainable Cityⁱⁱ

May 2023, the City of Mesa was recognized by Salt River Project (SRP) with a Platinum Designation as an SRP Sustainable City for its commitment to sustainable growth while supporting SRP's environmental policies and goals. As one of only three communities in the Phoenix-Mesa metro to receive the designation, Mesa was recognized for the development of its Climate Action Plan and implementing responsible environmental practices and smart economic growth.



Robust Industry Clusterⁱⁱⁱ

Arizona is home to many established and up-and-coming electric vehicle companies and supply chain providers. Here is just a sampling:

Battery Supply Chain

- American Battery Factory
- Cirba Solutions*
- Ecobat
- KORE Power
- LG Energy Solutions
- Li-Cycle*
- Sion Power
- Urbix Resources*

EV Manufacturers

- ElectraMeccanica*
- Lucid Group
- Nikola Motor

EV Components Manufacturers

- Exro Technologies*
- Hyundai Transys*
- Nxu*
- UACJ Automotive-Whitehall Industries
- WattLogic
- Zero Electric Vehicles

The Phoenix-Mesa metro hosts numerous companies serving nearly every sector of the electric vehicle supply chain – from air-bag initiators and charging stations to semiconductors and electronic components. Here are just a few examples:

- Amkor Technology
- ARM
- ASM
- Benchmark Electronics*
- Carlisle
- Daicel*
- Everspin Technologies
- GM
- Honeywell
- IBM
- Infineon*
- Intel
- JDMI
- Microchip
- Modern Industries
- NXP
- Onsemi
- Renesas
- Rogers Corporation
- SDI*
- ST
- Synopsys
- TSMC
- Texas Instruments
- ZF

*Companies with Mesa-based facilities.

Building Lasting Partnerships

ELECTRAMECCANICA, AN INNOVATIVE DEVELOPER AND MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES, MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS AND PRODUCTION TO A NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART 235,000-SQUARE-FOOT FACILITY IN MESA IN 2022.

“We are thrilled to bring production of our vehicles onshore. It takes a village to do what we are doing. Bringing our manufacturing facility and vision for our company to life only works if there is a true partnership between local and state government leaders who are committed to economic development, along with solid business partners who share a vision to create products that consumers crave.”

– Susan Docherty, CEO, ElectraMeccanica

➤ ElectraMeccanica manufactures electric vehicles at its new Mesa facility.

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing clear safety glasses and a dark blue t-shirt with white stripes on the sleeve, is looking intently at a control panel. The panel features several monitors displaying data, a keyboard, and various buttons. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the control room environment.

Extensive Talent Pipeline

The Phoenix-Mesa metro area is fed by a remarkably large education pipeline. Arizona State University (ASU) alone has nearly 80,000 students enrolled on campus. ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering rank #1 in the nation in undergraduate enrollment for Engineering. Additionally, Mesa-based colleges and universities host more than 40,000 students each year.

The region produced almost 4,300 graduates in degree programs relevant to the development of electric and autonomous vehicles. ^{iv}

➤ The Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute trains the workforce of today and the future in Mesa.

ARIZONA INSTITUTIONS WITH NOTABLE PROGRAMS IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE-RELATED FIELDS ^v



➤ Arizona State University with campuses in Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix leads the nation in engineering enrollment.

▶ ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Arizona State University is committed to partnering with corporate, education, and government organizations to produce a skilled engineering workforce. ASU has the largest engineering school in the nation, with more than 30,000 students enrolled. US News & World Report has ranked ASU the #1 Most Innovative University in the U.S. for the last seven years.

- Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Systems Engineering
- Data Science, Analytics, and Engineering
- Electrical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Mechanical Engineering
- Robotics and Autonomous Systems
- Software Engineering

▶ THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

The University of Arizona is committed to partnering with government and corporations to train job-ready students.

- Artificial Intelligence Laboratory
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Systems and Industrial Engineering

▶ GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Grand Canyon University (GCU) is a private Christian university committed to training the next generation of working professionals.

- Computer Engineering, Computer Science
- Data Science
- Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering
- Software Development, Software Engineering

▶ MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The largest community college district in the United States, the Maricopa Community College District includes 10 colleges throughout the Phoenix-Mesa metro area.

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Computer Applications Technology
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Programming

▶ UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY

The University of Advancing Technology was designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (CAE/IAE) and continues to be a nationally recognized leader in advanced technology education.

- Advancing Computer Science
- Enterprise Software Development
- Network Engineering
- Web Design

▶ ARIZONA ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE

Located at Mesa Community College, the Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AzAMI) offers industry certifications, stackable credentials that are competency-based with degree and certificate programs, flexible models of delivery, and portable labs for on-site training to ensure the region has the necessary pipeline of talent for present and future companies. By partnering with leaders in the manufacturing sector, AzAMI can ensure programs meet the needs of the industry.

- Additive Manufacturing Processes
- Aerospace Manufacturing Technology
- Automation and Robotic Technology
- Electrical/Mechanical Drafting
- Electronics Technology
- Machinist Apprenticeship
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Welding Technology



Home Grown, World-Class Green Technology

URBIX BEGAN ONLY A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO IN LAUNCHPOINT, MESA'S TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR, AND HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST GRAPHITE PURIFIERS IN NORTH AMERICA AND ONLY COMPANY IN THE WORLD THAT USES ITS GREENTECH GRAPHITE PURIFICATION METHOD FOR LITHIUM BATTERIES USED TO STORE ENERGY FOR ELECTRIC CARS AND OTHER USES.

“This is a fantastic moment in our young history. To see how this relatively small facility of just 31,000 square feet will have such positive impact in the U.S.’s Energy Storage Critical Mineral Strategy, and in the world, is super motivating and exciting. This is a huge milestone for us, and we have plenty more work to do. We have an incredible team at Urbix and amazing support from the City of Mesa, the region and the State of Arizona.”

— Nico Cuevas, Chairman and Co-Founder, Urbix Resources

➤ Mesa-based Urbix Resources has pioneered a proprietary process that produces high quality CSPG (coated spherical purified graphite) for electric vehicles at a fraction of the cost, energy, time, and space compared to its competitors.

Taxes, Incentives, Programs^{vi}

Arizona offers a highly competitive tax environment and incentive programs that can be utilized to mitigate operating costs. In addition to a low average state sales tax rate (8.6%), corporate income rate (4.9%), and unemployment insurance (2.0%), Arizona recently passed a bill to change the depreciation schedule for business and agriculture properties to lower assessed value and reduce taxes. Business-friendly incentive programs include the Quality Jobs Tax Credit, Qualified Facilities Refundable Tax Credit, and Renewable Energy Tax Investment Credit.

Moreover, Mesa has no primary property tax and hosts Foreign Trade Zone #221, which provides, not only exempted, deferred, or inverted tariffs and duties, but may also result in up to a 71.4% reduction in real and personal property taxes.

Available Land and Buildings

The Office of Economic Development (Mesa OED) maintains a large database of available properties in the City of Mesa. With more than a thousand acres of developable land and thousands of square feet of Class A industrial product newly built or under construction, Mesa staff can help you find the perfect fit for your business.

Easy Accessibility

Mesa is well positioned with two airports, Falcon field Airport, one of the nation's most active general aviation airports, and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, which provides commercial flights and cargo/customs services. Additionally, Mesa is minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Mesa is strategically located along major commerce corridors conveniently linking Mesa to California, Mexico, and other U.S. markets.



➤ Infineon, with operations in Mesa, manufactures semiconductors for the electric vehicle industry.

Empowered to Help Build Your Business

The City of Mesa Office of Economic Development works closely with clients throughout all phases of the development process and looks forward to helping you build and grow your company in Mesa.

SOURCES

¹<https://www.gpec.org/industries-operations/industries-in-greater-phoenix/autonomous-vehicles/>, 2023

²<https://media.srpnet.com/three-valley-cities-honored-by-srp-sustainable-cities-program/>, 2023

³<https://www.gpec.org/industries-operations/industries-in-greater-phoenix/autonomous-vehicles/>, 2023

⁴ibid

⁵ibid

⁶ibid

STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

-  Mesa-Economic-Development
-  MesaEconDev
-  Mesa Business Builder
-  CityofMesa

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