

Tennessee factory to become GM's 3rd electric vehicle plant

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This photo provided by General Motors shows the Cadillac Lyriq. General Motors' Cadillac brand is the latest to roll out an electric vehicle with the promise of taking sales from market leader Tesla. Executives say the Lyriq midsize SUV will have a range of over 300 miles per charge as well as technology and features to pull buyers from Tesla. (GM via AP)

General Motors plans to spend \$2 billion to convert its Spring Hill, Tennessee, assembly plant into a third U.S. site to build future electric vehicles.

The Detroit automaker also says it will spend another \$153 million to upgrade five Michigan factories for future vehicles.

The company will build the Cadillac Lyriq, a small electric SUV, at the Spring Hill factory. Gasoline-powered Cadillac SUVs will continue to be built at the plant, and it will also get additional unspecified electric vehicles, GM said in prepared statement Tuesday.

"We're investing in U.S. manufacturing to ensure that GM can build the vehicles that customers love today as well as transition to an all-electric future," Gerald Johnson, GM's executive vice president of global manufacturing, said during an online announcement. "We want to put everyone in an electric vehicle."

The Lyriq is due in showrooms sometime late in 2022. GM also is expected to announce details of an all-electric GMC Hummer pickup truck this week. They're among 20 electric models the company plans to sell globally by 2023.

GM already has announced that electric vehicles will be built at its plant in Orion Township, Michigan, and at the Detroit-Hamtramck plant, which straddles the border between the city of Detroit and the hamlet of Hamtramck.



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Currently the 7.9-million-square-foot Spring Hill facility employs about 3,400 hourly workers who make the Cadillac XT5 and XT6 gas-powered SUVs as well as a GMC SUV. The complex, which is GM's biggest in North America, also makes four engines that go into GM trucks and SUVs.

The paint and body shops at Spring Hill will see major expansions, and the general assembly area will get new machinery, conveyors, controls and other equipment. Renovation of the plant will begin immediately,

GM said in a statement.

The investments aren't expected to create additional jobs, but will help keep the ones at the Tennessee and Michigan factories.

GM laid off about 680 Spring Hill workers and ended the plant's third shift on July 31 due to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. New staffing levels at the plant will be determined as they get closer to production, spokesman Matt Ybarra said on Tuesday.

Other factories getting investments include the \$100 million being spent at the Delta Township plant near Lansing, Michigan, to make the GMC Acadia crossover SUV. That SUV will be transferred from Spring Hill.



This Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, photo shows the General Motors logo. General Motors is expected to reveal that it will build the Cadillac Lyriq electric SUV at its factory in Spring Hill, Tenn., when it makes a major manufacturing announcement Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

GM's Flint Assembly plant will get \$32 million for future production of heavy-duty pickup trucks, while the powertrain plant in Romulus, Michigan, will get \$17 million for automation and to increase the output of a 10-speed automatic transmission that goes into pickups and large SUVs.

Also, the Orion Township plant will get \$3.5 million and a plant in Brownstown Township, Michigan, will get \$750,000, both to help build a test vehicle for the Cruise autonomous vehicle unit.

Over the past 19 months, GM has announced investments of more than \$4.5 billion at the three future electric vehicle factories.

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