



RAYS OF POWER

Utah’s largest solar plant becomes operational, set to power Eagle Mountain data center



COURTESY EXCELSIOR

Excelsior Energy Capital’s Faraday Solar project is pictured in Utah County.

BY JACOB NIELSON
Daily Herald

A massive solar plant recently opened near Eagle Mountain in Utah County and will power a data center of one of the biggest technology companies in the world. Excelsior Energy Capital’s Faraday Solar project reached operational readiness on Sept. 30 and will provide renewable en-

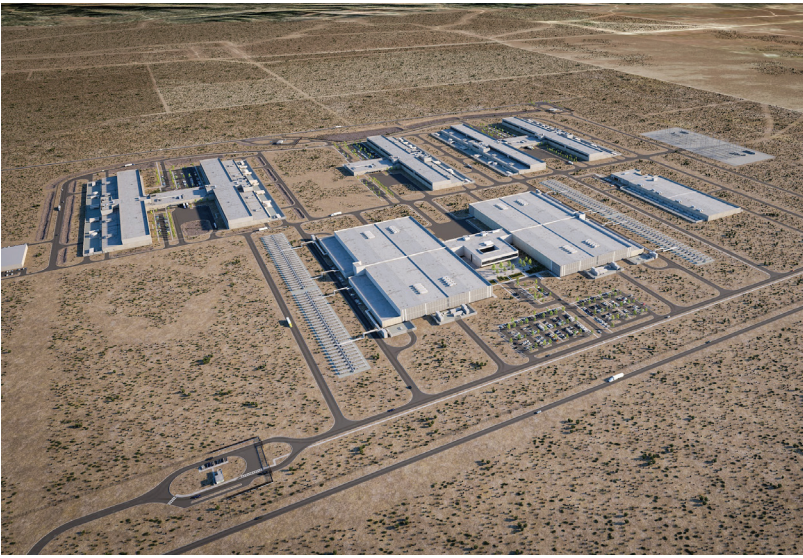
ergy to Meta’s Eagle Mountain data center through a 20-year power purchase agreement with Rocky Mountain Power. The facility is the largest solar plant in Utah and one of the largest in the country, approximately the size of Central Park, with 1.2 million solar panels producing 685.3 megawatts (MWdc). Excelsior acquired the project from its

original developers, Parasol and Clenera, in 2023. Christopher Frantz, a partner at Excelsior, said it was an attractive location because it was a high solar resource area that had demand from Rocky Mountain Power and received support from local stakeholders. “It certainly needs to be in an area where the local government is supportive of these

types of projects and is willing to give the permits needed to build it,” Frantz said. “The landowner that the project is built on, of course, had to be very supportive in order to lease us the land to build it.” The electricity generated to the facility will not go toward powering local homes.

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Thirsty data centers would have to report water use under Utah bill



COURTESY META

An undated photo of the Meta data center in Eagle Mountain.

BY ANNIE KNOX
Utah News Dispatch

Utah’s data centers would have to report to the state how much water they’re using every year under a proposal advancing at the state Legislature. The vast centers housing rows of servers would have to pay up if they don’t disclose water use, said Rep. Jill Koford, R-Ogden. The bill she’s sponsoring would fine them \$10,000 for every day they’re out of compliance. “We’re very serious about protecting Utah water and making sure that we’re using it wisely,” Koford said. A legislative water development panel agreed, voting unanimously

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

First Presidency lowers minimum missionary ages for women to 18

DAILY HERALD STAFF

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced a significant change to missionary requirements in a Friday news release. Effective immediately, women may begin full-time missionary service at 18 following high school graduation or an equivalent. The announcement comes just over a month after Dallin H. Oaks was called as the president and prophet of the church on Oct. 14, following the passing of President

Russell M. Nelson on Sept. 27. “While the Lord asks every worthy, able young man as part of his priesthood responsibility to prepare for and serve a mission, we reiterate that missionary service remains an optional opportunity for young women,” the First Presidency said in a statement. “We recognize that for those young women who desire to serve a full-time mission, the choice of age to begin service will not be the same for everyone.”

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