

## Up-to-Date in Kansas City?

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Eight-hundred million bucks.

That's the investment that "Meta" — the umbrella outfit that owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp — has agreed to invest in a patch of land in Kansas City's Northland. The plan is to build a data center at an 882-acre development site.

"Political leaders who gathered at Union Station heralded the news as a major development for Kansas City and the state." This private investment

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"would far surpass the scale of recent projects in the region . . . said Missouri Gov. Mike Parson," The *Kansas City Star* relates.

But there's more.

"Meta spokeswoman Melanie Roe said the company could invest as much as \$40 billion at the site in land acquisition, construction, and development of a larger data center." This is to be a "long term partnership."



Make that a Big Business/Big Government partnership. The biggest ever, perhaps.

The Kansas City Council had unanimously approved a development plan for the site last April, with data centers there enabled to access to more than \$8 billion in local tax incentives. "Incentive watchdog group Good Jobs First says such an incentive award would be the largest ever in American history," *The Kansas City Star* explains.

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And even as an investment in future taxes — which is the ostensible justification for the subsidies — the data complex is slated to employ about a hundred workers.

Politicians don't make the best investors. But they do make easy marks for big corporations.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.