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## **SGL Automotive Carbon Fiber Plant Opens at ASPI**

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The SGL Automotive Carbon Fiber plant has been inaugurated at the ASPI Technology Park in Moses Lake, Washington. Carbon fiber will be produced at this state of the art facility which will operate under a joint venture between SGL Carbon and the BMW Group. The body panels of BMW automobiles will use the produced carbon fiber. The first BMW automobile to use the carbon fiber is the new all-electric BMW MegaCity.

An initial capital investment of more than \$100 million is represented by this new facility. Hundreds of high-tech, family wage jobs will be created by this facility. While raw materials will be imported from Japan, the finished goods will be exported to Germany by the facility. BMW automobiles will be molded and assembled using the finished goods in Germany.

The culmination of a highly successful public/private partnership is represented by the official opening of the plant. The ASPI Technology Park has provided a \$35,000 grant commitment to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Carbon/composite-related manufacturers, material suppliers, and logistic companies will be recruited through this commitment. Washington State's position as the top carbon composite manufacturing center in the world will be therefore enhanced.

The commencement of ASPI Commerce Park 4 has also been announced by the ASPI. Additional support for the global supply chain management of these premier companies like SGL and BMW will be provided by this 100,000 square foot manufacturing and distribution facility.

In a release, Patrick Jones, Executive Director of the Port of Moses Lake, said, "These facilities provide attendant space for suppliers, sub-assembly providers and logistics companies supporting our current manufacturing firms like Boeing (News - Alert), SGL/BMW, and Genie Industries."

Currently ASPI Commerce Park 3 is under construction. Ground breaking for Park 4 will begin after this construction is completed. Major suppliers and subcontractors can be attracted by Washington State through co-location opportunities. Advanced facilities attendant to the global manufacturers will be also constructed.

Terry Brewer, Executive Director for Grant County Economic Development Council said, "The availability of this ready to occupy space greatly enhances our ability to represent to these global manufacturers and employers that we can meet their unusually aggressive timelines."