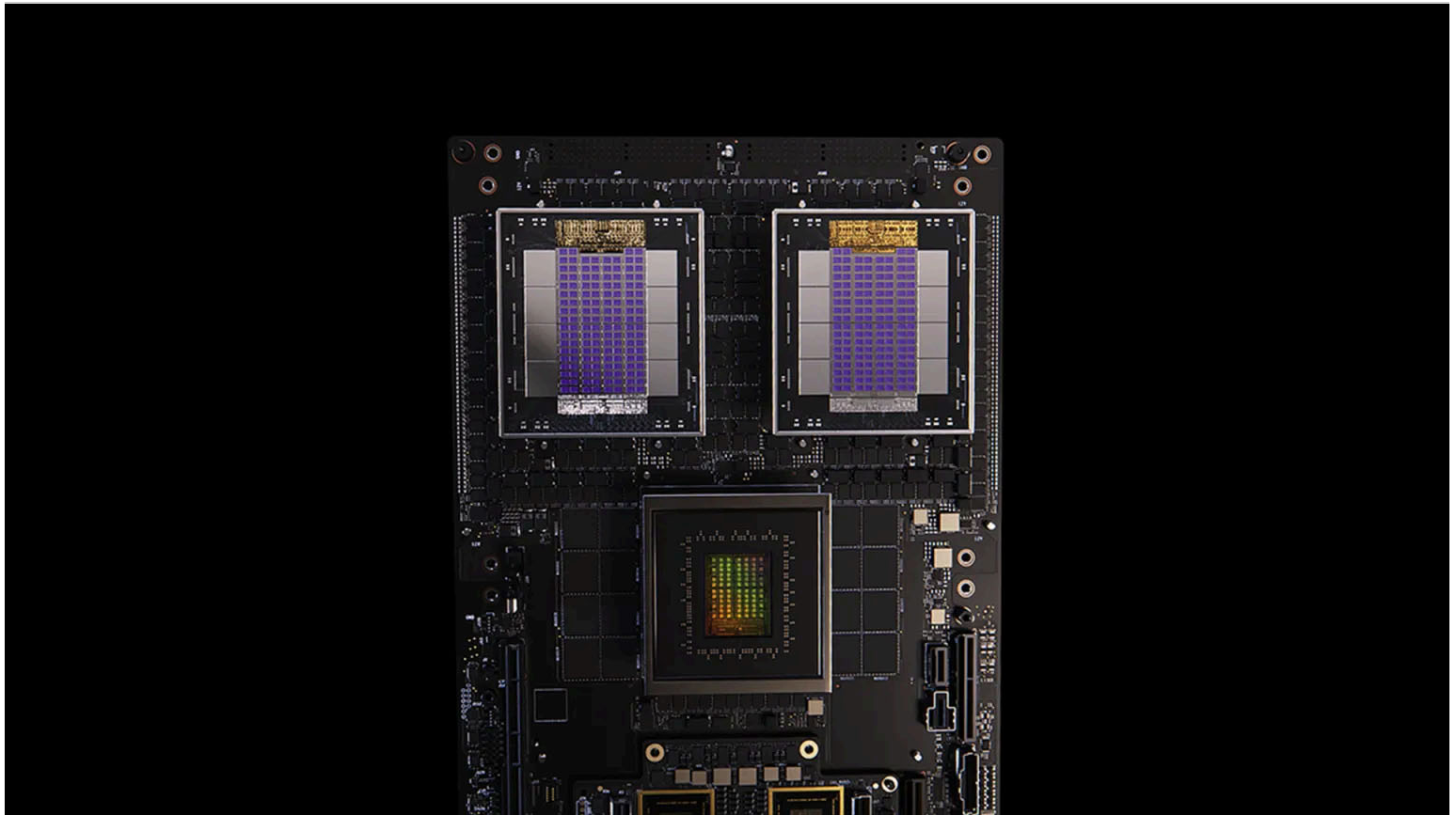


BUSINESS

Fort Worth approves tax breaks to try to land AI supercomputer plant

by Bob Francis
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Nvidia NVLink Fusion computing platform. (Courtesy photo | Nvidia)

Fort Worth could be where AI begins as a major chip manufacturer considers building two plants valued at \$687 million and creating 888 jobs.

During a June 24 meeting, council members unanimously approved a tax abatement agreement for Taiwanese artificial intelligence chip manufacturer Wistron.

The tax abatements are no guarantee Wistron will locate the plants here, as El Paso; Nashville, Tennessee; and Fremont, California, are also under consideration.

If the company moves ahead with plans in Fort Worth, the city could see about 1 million-square-foot worth of industrial space across two sites where Wistron would build supercomputers in partnership with AI chip giant Nvidia.

The City Council approved a tax break of up to 80% of the incremental increase in value of real investment and business personal property at one site and 60% of the incremental increase in value of real investment and business personal property at a second, smaller site. The agreement would be in effect over 10 years.

The city would receive \$10.6 million in new tax revenue over a 10-year period if both facilities are built. The company would see its taxes reduced by \$30.7 million over that period.

If Wistron does proceed with the Fort Worth plants, both would be in Denton County, one at the Trammell Crow development 35 Eagle near Alliance and the other at Hillwood's Alliance Westport 14 development.

A similar tax incentive agreement is expected to be considered by the Denton County commissioners.

At the 35 Eagle location, Wistron would agree to invest \$80 million in property improvements by June 30, 2026, and \$411 million in equipment by Jan. 1, 2027, and create 634 jobs by the end of 2026.

At Westport, the company plans \$32 million in property upgrades by June 30, 2026, and \$164 million in equipment by Jan. 1, 2027, and 254 jobs by December 2026.

The minimum average annual salary of the jobs would be \$63,000.

Chip manufacturer Nvidia put the AI chip plan in play in April when it announced plans to produce up to \$500 billion in AI infrastructure in the U.S. That includes designing and building factories that will produce Nvidia AI supercomputers through partnerships with chip manufacturers Foxconn and Wistron over the next four years.

Foxconn is leading the effort to build an AI supercomputing plant in Houston, and Wistron is taking the lead in the Dallas area. Mass production at both plants is expected to ramp up in the next 12-15 months, according to both companies.

“Texas is where the future of innovation is building,” Gov. Greg Abbott said in April when Nvidia announced its plans.

Abbott congratulated Nvidia on what he described as its Texas-sized investment in Houston and Dallas that will pave the way for the company’s first all-American-made AI supercomputers.

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