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Manufacturing

Luxury car maker opens Tradepoint facility ahead of American expansion

McLaren cut the ribbon on its first American vehicle processing center on Tuesday at Tradepoint Atlantic.

BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL/GARRETT DVORKIN

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Story Highlights

- McLaren opened its first U.S. vehicle processing center at Tradepoint Atlantic in Baltimore County.

- The British supercar maker will invest another $100 million in the country over the next 12 months.
- The facility will initially support 20 jobs but that number could triple in the coming years.

A British supercar maker on Tuesday marked the opening of a new facility at Tradepoint Atlantic that will serve as a gateway for its expansion into the lucrative American market.

McLaren's 50,000-square-foot vehicle processing center in Sparrows Point is the company's first in the United States, which represents more than half of its global deliveries. The facility acts as a middleman between McLaren's factories and its dealerships, and serves as a customization and quality control hub. The $10.5 million project will initially support 20 jobs, but that figure could triple in the coming years as McLaren continues to grow its U.S. presence.

Gov. Wes Moore waved the checkered flag as Nick Collins, the CEO of McLaren Group Holdings, drove the first McLaren to be delivered out of the company's new facility at TradePoint Atlantic.

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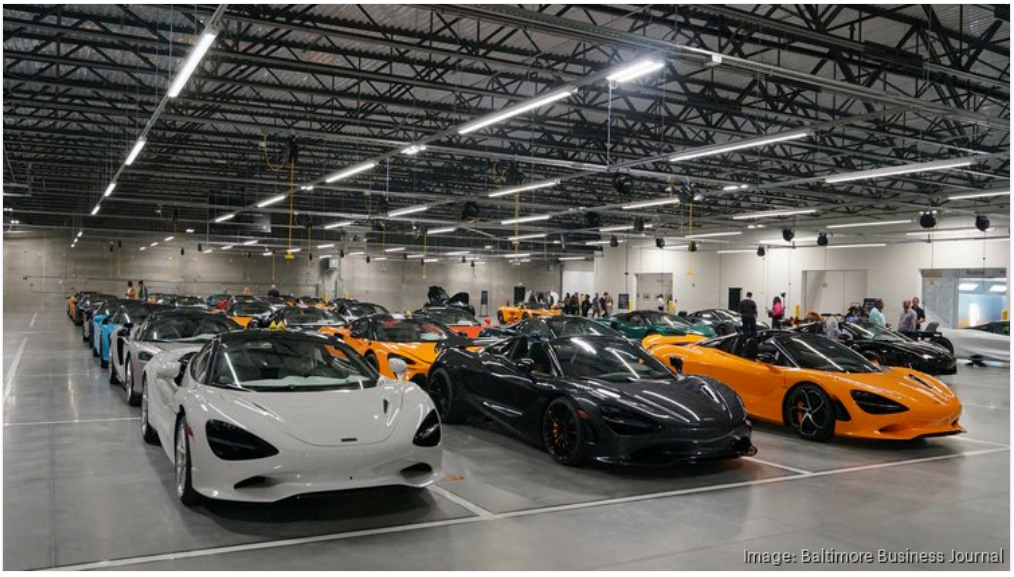
The carmaker, which is known for its Formula 1 team, has spent $150 million on its American expansion over the past three years and more investment is on the way. Nicolas Brown, president of McLaren Americas, said during Tuesday's event that the company plans to spend another $100 million in the country over the next 12 months.

“This facility is futureproof. It has the latest technology, is state-of-the-art, and allows us the flexibility to prepare for what the future holds for McLaren in the Americas,” Brown said. “We are starting with 20 employees here, but this is just the beginning, and we plan to grow from there.”

The opening of McLaren's Tradepoint facility is part of a period of growth and investment for the brand following its acquisition by Abu Dhabi's CYVN Holdings, which made Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund its main shareholder. McLaren will invest more than $675 million to expand its manufacturing operations in the United Kingdom and release new models, like the company’s first-ever SUV.



McLaren had dozens of vehicles ready for delivery at the facility.

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When those SUVs are ready for delivery, they will come through McLaren’s new Baltimore County processing center. The cars will then be painted however their owners want before being polished and checked over by technicians. McLaren plans to grow into the location, which was built to be larger than the brand’s current needs. The company plans to increase the number of vehicles it produces, too, which will mean more cars coming through Tradepoint Atlantic and the nearby Port of Baltimore.

“This vehicle processing center is much more than infrastructure; it is a reflection of our commitment to the Americas, to Maryland, to our retailer partners and most importantly, to our clients,” said Nick Collins, McLaren Group’s CEO, on Tuesday.

Gov. Wes Moore and Nick Collins, CEO of McLaren Group Holdings both attended the ribbon cutting of McLaren's new facility in Sparrows Point.

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