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Technology

Colorado university spending \$14M on land to establish quantum tech hub



Image: Kathryn Scott

Officials break ground at Quantum COMmons @ Arvada on Sept. 16, 2024.

COURTESY KATHRYN SCOTT



By [Cassidy Ritter](#) – Reporter, Denver Business Journal
Sep 17, 2024



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An industrial part of Arvada is being acquired by a university and will be reshaped into a quantum technology hub over the next 18 months by a regional partnership backed by federal funds.

The transformation will take place on 70 acres at 18300 State Highway 72 in the western metro-area suburbs.

Colorado School of Mines purchased the industrial property a month ago for about \$14 million, university President Paul Johnson told the Denver Business Journal.

“It’s one of the few remaining parcels of this size that has industrial zoning, so we can actually do the things here that we want to do,” Johnson said. “It’s just a beautiful piece of property. You can see the ‘M’ on Mount Zion there, so Mines is right below there. You can see up to Boulder. Through the trees, you can see downtown Denver from here.”

Jefferson County records show Diamond Contracting Corp., a general contractor, still owns the gated property.

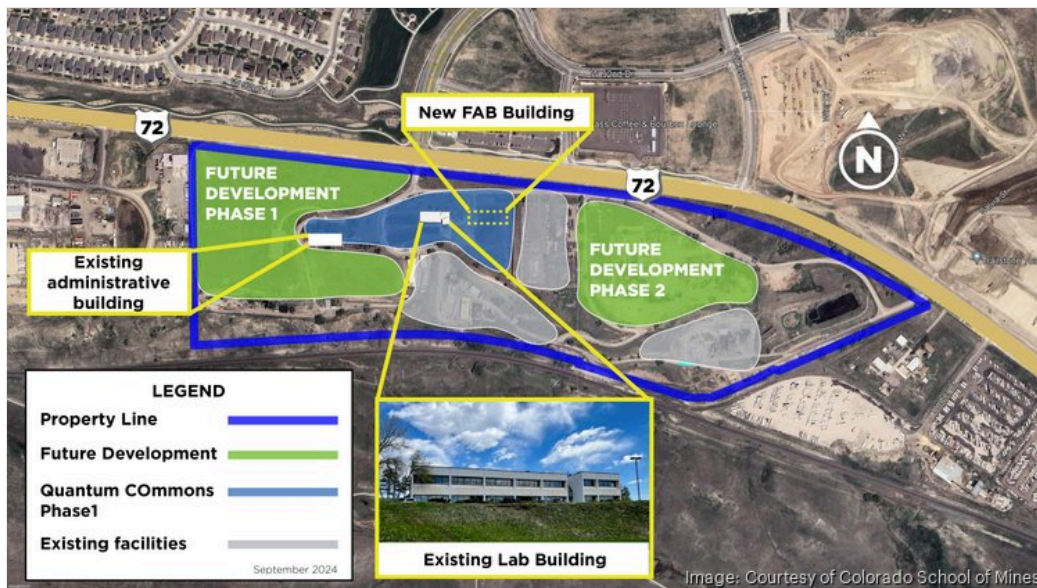
The development, called Quantum COMmons @ Arvada, is expected to become a “globally leading technology park, providing open access user facilities critical to accelerating the speed of progress in the quantum industry,” according to Elevate Quantum, a federally recognized group of a 70-plus-entities in Colorado and New Mexico.

Quantum COMmons @ Arvada is owned and operated by Mines in collaboration with Elevate Quantum and its partners.

Mines fronted the cost to purchase the land and will essentially get partly reimbursed for the space, Johnson said.

This development is funded through a \$40.5 million federal grant Elevate Quantum received in July when the consortium was named [one of 12 “tech hub” grant recipients](#). With plans to boost the Mountain West region’s quantum industry, [more than half of the \\$40.5 million federal grant](#) - \$22 million - will go toward developing the Arvada property, said Zachary Yerushalmi, Elevate Quantum’s CEO.

State, federal and local officials celebrated a groundbreaking at the site Monday, kicking off renovation of an existing office building and lab on the site and then to build a new fabrication facility for quantum companies.



The 70-acre property will serve as a quantum hub in Colorado.

COURTESY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

The office building will serve as a co-working and office site for quantum companies.

The property's two-story, 30,000-square-foot lab building will be renovated into a quantum lab facility with shared spaces and equipment, said Johnson and Yerushalmi. A new fabrication building will be built adjacent to the lab.

The goal is to have all work done in 18 months, officials said. The lab and fabrication facility has to be operational in 12 to 18 months according to terms of the U.S. Economic Development Administration grant, Yerushalmi previously told the DBJ.

The remaining space will be developed in phases based on the needs of quantum businesses looking to relocate to or have a presence in the area, Johnson said. Elevate Quantum partner companies can have a free ground lease, he added.

“This site is positioned to really be the center of quantum technology,” Gov. Jared Polis said at the groundbreaking. “We already have a greater concentration – both in absolute and per-capita terms of quantum capabilities and jobs – than anywhere else in the U.S., and we’re excited that this will be home to unique and critical capabilities for quantum.”

Elevate Quantum also plans to develop a sister site in Boulder that will serve as a quantum incubator. Yerushalmi declined to provide more details about the Boulder site, adding that the Arvada hub and Boulder space are “puzzle pieces that sit together.”

“I think the day is coming in the not too distant future where people will be referring to this as the Silicon Valley of quantum,” Boulder Mayor Aaron Brockett said at the ceremony.

An additional “puzzle piece” or “node,” as Yerushalmi called the different Elevate Quantum sites, will also be located in New Mexico.

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Rank	Prior Rank	Business name
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