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## Amazon HQ2 Sites Share BF's 2018 Deal Of The Year Award

*New York and Virginia, which each got selected to host Amazon's HQ2 mega-project, are co-winners of the Gold Award in our 2018 contest.*

January 4, 2019

**Empire State Development** and the **Virginia Economic Development Partnership**, dual winners of Amazon's bidding derby for its massive HQ2 project, have each been selected to receive the **Gold Award** for **Business Facilities' 2018 Economic Development Deal of the Year**, the first tie in the annual contest's history.

"The most coveted mega-project of the young century may have been bisected by Jeff Bezos' last-minute decision to pick two locations for HQ2, but our judges decided not to downgrade the winners—who each deserve to stand in the spotlight on our Gold Award red carpet," *BF* Editor in Chief Jack Rogers said.

Long Island City in Queens, NY and Crystal City, VA will each develop a portion of the HQ2 project, which in Amazon's RFP was projected to generate a \$5-billion investment and at least 50,000 new jobs.



The **Silver Award** in *BF's* annual Deal of the Year competition went to the **Alabama Department of Commerce** for the \$1.6-billion Mazda-Toyota automotive assembly plant, a project that will create 4,000 new jobs.

"Alabama has powered its way to the top tier of automotive manufacturing states by leveraging its unmatched decades-long success in attracting major foreign direct investment transplant projects from Germany, Japan and South Korea," Rogers said.

**Michigan Economic Development Corp.** captured *BF's* **Bronze Award** for the Michigan Central Station Ford Detroit Redevelopment Project, a \$738-million initiative to transform the iconic Central Station Depot into the centerpiece of Ford's new 1.2 million-square-foot Corktown campus and mobility hub.

"For too many years, the crumbling façade of this majestic station was a symbol of Detroit's fiscal collapse," Rogers noted. "Now it will become the crown jewel of Detroit's turbocharged recovery. Motown is back and it's hitting on all cylinders. Bravo, Detroit!"

Rogers said the 2018 contest was *BF's* most robust Deal of the Year competition to date, with more than 40 top-tier projects nominated representing locations across the U.S. and Canada.

*BF's* blue-ribbon panel of Deal of the Year judges also selected these locations/organizations (and the 10 projects they secured) for **Honorable Mention Awards** in the 2018 contest:

- Consumers Energy for the Spartan Michigan dairy processing facility
- Ignite Fredericton for the Cyber Park
- Gilbert AZ Office of Economic Development for the Deloitte U.S. Delivery Center
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for Amazon's Operations Center of Excellence in Nashville
- Baytown, TX and Chambers County, TX for the JSW Steel (USA) expansion
- Opportunities New Brunswick for TD Bank Group Shared Services Center
- Irving, TX Economic Development Partnership and Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce for the Pei Wei Asian Diner Corporate Headquarters
- Economic Development of St. Lucie County, FL for the Maverick Boat Group project
- Henrico County VA Economic Development Authority for the Facebook Data Center
- Rhode Island Commerce Corp. for the Amgen project

*BF's* 2018 Deal of the Year judges were Howard Silverman, President and CEO, The CAI Global Group; Philip Anderson, President and CEO, P.W. Anderson & Partners; Glenn Mair, Director, MMK Consulting; David Hickey, Managing Director, Hickey & Associates; and Jerry Szatan, Founder and Principal, Szatan & Associates.

*Business Facilities* congratulates all of the winners of our 2018 Deal of the Year Awards.

*Business Facilities* is a national publication that has been the leading location source for corporate site selectors and economic development professionals for more than 50 years.

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- [2018 Economic Development Deal Of The Year: Gold Award](#)For excitement alone, we probably should call Amazon's HQ2 the "Deal of the Century." Jeff Bezos' mega-project produced the first tie in the history of our annual competition.
- [Virginia Is Business Facilities' 2018 State Of The Year](#)The Commonwealth secures *BF's* top annual honor with a diversified and successful high-tech growth strategy.