

39° F



Hot topics: | Davy Jones | Snooki | Google privacy policy | Michael Jordan mansion | 'Dancing With the Stars' | Bob Collins | Blackhawks Live

Search [input] [button]

[Upcycle with Relay Rides](#) Use Existing Resources. Rent Cars From Real People. Join Free! [RelayRides.com/](#)
[Honda CR-V Compact SUV](#) See Current Offers. Build and Price Your Honda at the Official Site. [www.honda.com/nissan_ro](#)
[Ford@ SUV Dealer](#) See Offers On Our Hybrid Vehicles. Visit a Local Ford Dealer Now. [www.YourCaliforniaFord.com](#)

AdChoices [button]

Weather Alerts from the Chicago Weather Center

1 of 1 alerts

Winter Storm Watch: Kenosha, WI; Racine, WI

Home > WGN Radio Business > Chicago Breaking Business

Bright the latest Indiana electric vehicle startup to call it quits

Company cites Energy Department bureaucracy

[Email] [Print] Comments 0 Share 0 [Social icons]



WGN BREAKING BUSINESS

Gov. Quinn lifts moratorium on state review of hospital property ...
Mar 01, 12:40 PM

Top items

WGN HIGHLIGHTS HEADLINES ENTERTAINMENT

'People came from everywhere to help their neighbor' -- Johnny B talks with Gov. Quinn about his tour of the tornado-damaged region of southern Illinois

'He was Lennon, McCartney, George and Ringo all rolled into one' -- Bill Leff talks with music critic Chris Willman about Davy Jones

'We've pulled together what I consider our 'A' team when it comes to news analysis' -- Milt Rosenberg hosts a news review roundtable

'This is going to be a stretch but I want to see what he can do' -- Garry Meier reveals his list of 'Dancing With the Stars' contestants

'The producers really didn't want to take chances so they brought in the Wrecking Crew' -- Mike McConnell talks about the band that played instruments for The Monkees and many other groups of that era

more...

Bright Automotive planned to build the Bright Idea plug-in hybrid commercial van. (Handout)

By Julie Wernau
Tribune reporter
11:57 a.m. CST, February 29, 2012



Just when it seemed like things couldn't get worse, Indiana received more bad news on the electric vehicle front Wednesday as another promising hopeful announced it would call it quits.

Bright Automotive, which is based in Anderson, Ind., and planned to deliver 300 manufacturing jobs to the state by 2012 pending a loan from the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program, announced Wednesday that it has withdrawn its DOE application and will wind down operations in Indiana.

In a scathing letter to Energy Secretary **Steven Chu**, Bright Automotive Chief Executive Reuben Munger and Chief Operating Officer Mike Donoughe described an overly bureaucratic process and called the department ineffective in its mission to meet President **Barack Obama's** goal of adding one million plug-in vehicles to the road by 2015.

Topics

- Vehicles
- Companies and Corporations
- Automotive Equipment

See more topics »

Maps

- 2701 Enterprise Dr, Anderson, IN 46013, USA
- 3851 W Hamlin Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326, USA
- Dept of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20585, USA

Chicago Athletic Clubs
\$50 deal for \$15

Ads by Google

Ford Electric Vehicles

You're Concerned About the planet Ford Is Too! Learn More @ Ford.com. www.ford.com/green/technology/

Chapter 7 Means Test

Determine If Chapter 7 Is an Option for You, Complete a Free Evaluation www.Chapter7.com

Online Bankruptcy Filing

File for Bankruptcy - 3 Easy Steps! Featured by CNN and Entrepreneur. www.LegalZoom.com

WGN Radio Now alerts by e-mail or text

In the end, the company said it was the department's constantly changing terms, outlined in a series of "near final" commitment letters, that forced the company "to say 'uncle.' "

"The actions -- or better said 'lack of action' -- by your team means hundreds of great manufacturing and technical jobs, union and non-union alike, and thousands of indirect jobs in Indiana and Michigan will not see the light of day," the men wrote.

Bright had received incentive packages at the state, county and local levels in Indiana and Michigan in its quest to build a plug-in hybrid commercial vehicle. But it said without a DOE loan, it would not be

able to move forward with its production plans.

"We understand that this is a difficult day for Bright Automotive and their workers. Over the last three years, the Department has worked with the company to try to negotiate a deal that supported their business while protecting the taxpayers. In the end, we were not able to come to an agreement on terms that would protect the taxpayers," said DOE spokesman Damien LaVera.

The company has waited to learn the status of its application since 2008 and said it was told several times that it was weeks away from approval.

"We asked our team members on countless occasions to work literally around the clock whenever yet another new DOE requirement came down the pike," they wrote.

DOE's most recent set of conditions, combined with the long wait, the company said, were "so outlandish that more rational and objective persons would likely conclude that your team was negotiating in bad faith."

The company said it may instead decide to develop the technology in China. Officials in Indiana and Michigan could not immediately be reached for comment.

Indiana Gov. **Mitch Daniels** set out in January 2010 to make Indiana the "the electric vehicle state." Last year, Think, an electric vehicle maker in Elkhart propped up by government incentives, filed for bankruptcy. A month ago, Ener1, the battery maker that was to supply the vehicle from three manufacturing facilities in Indiana, also filed for Chapter 11. In addition to Bright Automotive, another unrelated plug-in manufacturer the state tried to nurture has yet to get off the ground.

jwernau@tribune.com | Twitter [@littlewern](https://twitter.com/@littlewern)

Copyright © 2012, **Chicago Tribune**



Find us on Facebook

Comments 0 Share 0 Tweet 0 Recommend

« **Previous Story**

More Chicago Breaking Business

Next Story »

A. Elmi & Company

Ron Bliwas steps down as CEO of ad agency Eicoff; Bill McCabe named to post



Streets of Woodfield sold to Dallas investor

Comments (0)

[Add comments](#) | [Discussion FAQ](#)

Currently there are no comments. Be the first to **comment!**

Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant & Bar \$30 deal for \$15
Chicago Male Salon \$50 deal for \$15
More: Health | Leisure | Restaurant | Spas and Salons

MOST VIEWED MOST COMMENTED
POPULAR PHOTOS

Mad Men Ad
1 student dead, 1 seriously hurt in stabbing at Far South Side school
WGN Radio Cubs Song Contest
Michael Jordan lists suburban mansion for \$29 million
5 deaths on one street: 'There are no words to describe this'

CHICAGO SHOPPING
SHOP SMARTER, NOT HARDER
COOL NAILS LOOKS FOUND ON PINTEREST
POTTERY BARN'S ROOM DESIGN GUIDE
SEE THE WEEKLY ADS FROM THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE
Brad Goreski's top spring picks >>



Weekdays

Jonathon Brandmeier
Mike McConnell
John Williams
Garry Meier
WGN Sports Night
Milt Rosenberg
Bill Leff
Pinch Hitters

Weekends

Nick Digilio
Orion & Max
Mr. Fix-It
Bill Moller
Sports Central
Chicago Live!
Great Outdoors
Love Changes Life
Lutheran Hour
The Sunday Papers
Dean Richards
Brian Noonan
Sunday Night Radio Special
The Bomb Shelter with Daniel
Carcillo

News

Chicago News
National & World News
News Links
Traffic
Lowest Gas Prices
Flight Status and Delays
Business
Politics
Emergency Closing Center
Offbeat News
Steve Bertrand on Books
News Team

Weather

Chicago Weather
Weather Alerts
National Weather
Emergency Closing Center

Shop WGN

Personalized calendars
Ron Santo book
Half-Price Chicago
Chicago Photography
Clark Street Sports
WGN items
SportSyncRadio

Contests/Events

Contests & Games
Prize Policy
Upcoming Events
Hometown Voices
Community Calendar



PARTNERS | [Chicago Tribune](#) | [ChicagoNow](#) | [Chicago Magazine](#) | [Chicago Shopping](#) | [Chicago Weather Center](#) | [CLTV](#) | [Metromix](#) | [RedEye](#) | [Triblocal](#) | [WGN-TV](#) | [Vivelo Hoy](#) | [Tribune Events](#)
ABOUT US | [Advertise with us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Follow us on Twitter](#) | [Find us on Facebook](#) | [Awards](#) | [Employment/EEO](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Internships](#) | [Neediest Kids Fund](#) | [Information about Public Service Announcements](#) | [History](#) | [Sponsors](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About Our Ads](#)
Copyright © 2012, WGN Radio, 435 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611

A Tribune Broadcasting website