



Apr. 2024 In this Issue...

- ▶ U.S. Transmission Sector Re...
- ▶ U.S. Distillery & Brewery P...
- ▶ U.S. Home to \$17 Billion in...
- ▶ Industrial Info to Present ...



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U.S. Transmission Sector Readies for \$10 Billion in Second-Quarter Starts

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U.S. Home to \$17 Billion in Cargo Port Projects

Despite facing challenges from foreign competition, particularly from countries with lower labor costs, the U.S. shipbuilding industry maintains its position as a world leader in innovation, quality and capability.

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Industrial Info to Present Webinar on Global Chemical Processing Industry

Industrial Info is pleased to be presenting a complimentary webinar on the spending outlook for the global Chemical Processing Industry on Wednesday, May 8, at 10 a.m. CDT (11 a.m. EDT). Join our industry experts as they [...]

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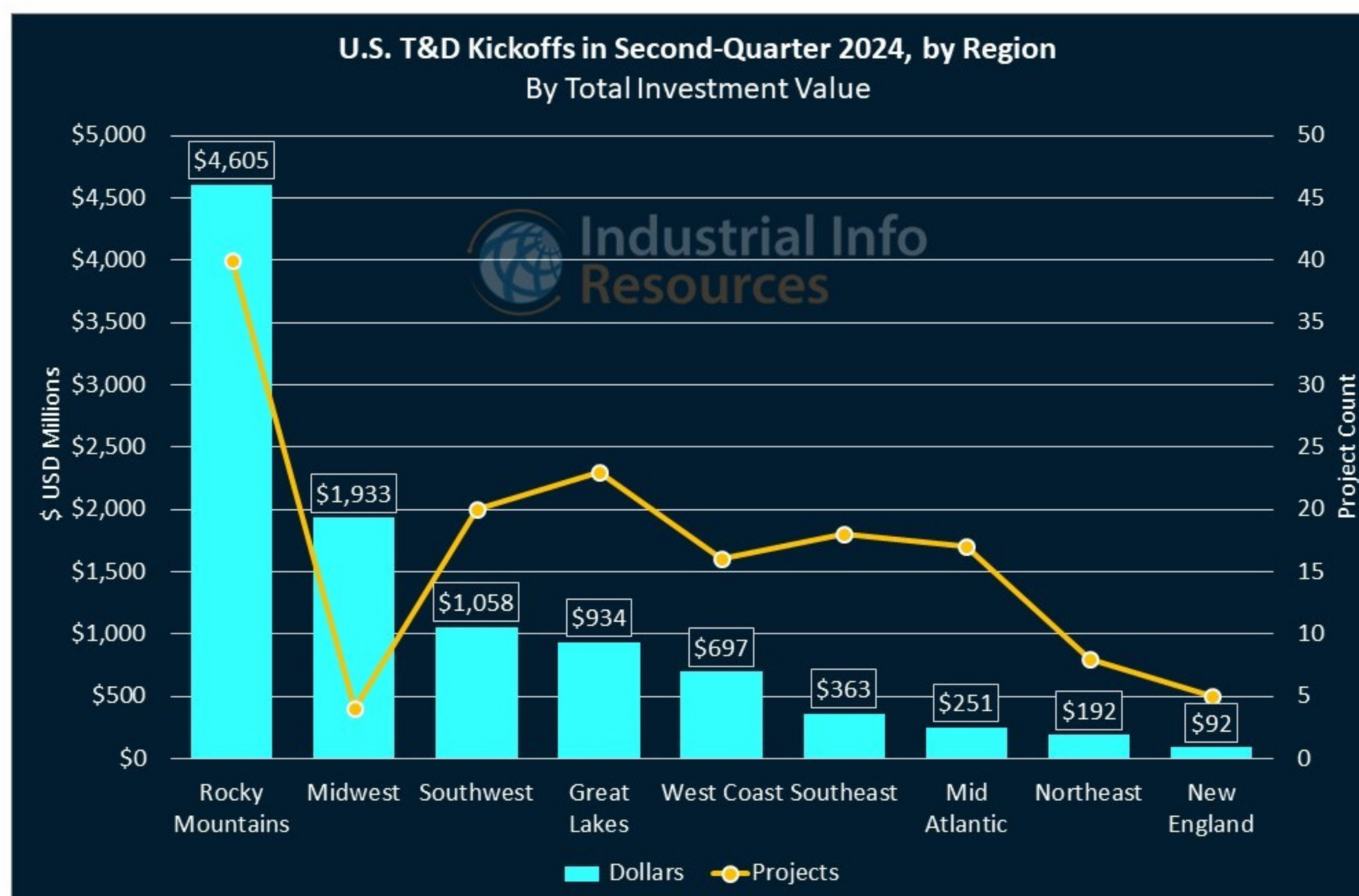
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U.S. Transmission Sector Readies for \$10 Billion in Second-Quarter Starts

The U.S. transmission and distribution (T&D) sector is facing calls for rapid and wide-ranging expansions, as various power markets race to reach underserved areas, improve efficiency, incorporate more renewable generation, and connect with offshore resources. Industrial Info is tracking more than \$10 billion in U.S.-based T&D projects that are set to kick off in the second quarter of 2024, nearly half of which is attributed to projects in the Rocky Mountains region.



T&D developers traditionally have faced a swath of geographic challenges in the Rocky Mountain region, such as difficult terrain for line construction, outdated infrastructure, and low-density areas starved for better energy access. In a sparsely populated area of southern Colorado, **Xcel Energy Incorporated (NASDAQ:XEL)** (Minneapolis, Minnesota) is preparing to spend **\$30 million to upgrade lines from Alamosa to Romeo**, which total about 20 miles, and **\$15 million to upgrade lines from Romeo to Antonito**, which total about eight miles. The aging lines will have their capacity raised from 69 to 115 kilovolts (kV).

Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Power Project Database can read detailed reports on the [Alamosa-to-Romeo](#) and [Romeo-to-Antonito](#) projects.

Other T&D projects in the Rocky Mountains region are intended to help power-generation developers take advantage of the region's generous renewable resources. **ibV Energy Partners LLC** (Miami, Florida) is preparing to build **\$25 million worth of transmission lines near Boulder City, Nevada**, which is about 25 miles southwest of Las Vegas, to connect ibV's upcoming **Boulder Flats Solar Facility** to the power grid. Boulder Flats is expected to generate 113 megawatts (MW) and feature a 60-MW battery energy-storage system. Subscribers can read detailed project reports on the [transmission lines](#) and [solar plant](#).

Large-scale power-consuming projects across the U.S. are driving calls for higher-capacity, more efficient T&D systems. Arizona Public Service Company, a subsidiary of **Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (NYSE:PNW)** (Phoenix, Arizona), is developing the **\$30 million Runway Power Line in Goodyear, Arizona**, just west of Phoenix, to connect the **\$18 million Diamond Substation**, also set to begin construction, and the **Runway Substation**, which is preparing for a **\$12.5 million upgrade**.

The Runway Substation serves **Microsoft Corporation's (NASDAQ:MSFT)** (Redmond, Washington) Goodyear Data Center, while the Diamond Substation is being designed to serve STACK Infrastructure's (Denver, Colorado) planned data center campus in Avondale. Data centers typically consume heavy amounts of energy, and buildouts from these companies and their peers often have T&D developers struggling to keep up with demand. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the [Runway Power Line](#), [Diamond Substation](#) and [Runway Substation upgrades](#).

Many developers are turning to underground transmission lines, as they are less affected by extreme weather and more reliable than overhead lines. **SOO Green Energy**, an Iowa-based partnership among numerous companies, is developing the **\$1.29 billion SOO Green HVDC Link Project from Mason City, Iowa, to Plano, Illinois**. The 350-mile, underground, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) line will connect the two largest U.S. power markets—MISO and PJM—along an existing railroad line. It will be supported by new, **\$600 million converter stations in Mason City and Plano**. Direct Connect Development Company LLC (Minneapolis, Minnesota) is managing the project, which is set to wrap up in the third quarter of 2025.

The SOO Green partnership selected **Prysmian Group** (Milan, Italy) to supply HVDC cable systems for the project, which backers say will better deliver low-cost renewable energy to consumers in the region. Subscribers can read detailed reports on the [SOO Green line](#) and the related [converter stations in Mason City and Plano](#).

Other T&D projects are catering specifically to high-profile power-generation projects, such as **Equinor's (NYSE:EQNR)** (Stavanger, Norway) much-anticipated **Empire Windfarm off the New York coast**. The Empire project has cleared major hurdles in recent months as other U.S.-based offshore-wind projects have struggled, and it is expected to generate about 816 MW upon completion of its **\$850 million first phase**. It is to be supported by a **\$70 million offshore substation**, which will send the power produced at the facility 35 miles via a **\$60 million submarine line** to the existing Gowanus Substation in Sunset Park.

Subscribers can read detailed project reports on the [Empire Windfarm](#), its [substation](#) and its [transmission line](#). For more information on some of the most recent developments in the U.S. offshore wind market, see February 26, 2024, article - [U.S. Offshore Wind Sector Sees New Generation, Sale and Construction Approval](#).

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Project and Plant databases can [click here](#) for a full list of detailed reports for projects mentioned in this article, and [click here](#) for a full list of related plant profiles.

Subscribers can [click here](#) for a full list of reports for active and planned T&D projects across the U.S. that are set to begin construction in the second quarter.



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U.S. Distillery & Brewery Project Activity Maintains Strength

U.S. per capita alcohol consumption has been on the rise in recent years, with a sharp spike in alcohol use seen during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic. While those days of quarantining and looking for an outlet from stress and isolation may have diminished, the U.S. distillery and brewing sectors are going strong, showing billions of dollars in active projects. Industrial Info's coverage of this sector includes both large commercial plants aiming to get out as much product as possible and smaller operations set on creating smaller craft batches of beers and spirits.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, two of the largest projects come from some of the largest producers of alcoholic beverages in the U.S. and world, [Molson Coors Brewing Company \(NYSE:TAP\)](#) (Chicago, Illinois), known for its beers, and [Diageo \(NYSE:DEO\)](#) (London, England), which manufactures some of the world's best known alcoholic beverages, including Johnnie Walker scotch, Guinness beer, Smirnoff vodka, Captain Morgan spiced rum and Crown Royal whisky.

Coors is expanding its famed brewery in Golden, Colorado by constructing a 200,000-square-foot building addition, featuring a new bottling line and related equipment, to increase production capacity. The project kicked off in 2020 and is expected to be completed later this year. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Food & Beverage Project Database can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

Diageo has even larger plans in store for Montgomery, Alabama, where the company this year plans to begin construction on a grassroot distillery and warehousing facility. Construction on the 200,000-square-foot facility is set to begin later this year, putting it on track for completion in late 2025, when it will begin ramping up toward production of 10 million gallons of spirits per year. Subscribers can [click here](#) to learn more about the project.

Kentucky easily lives up to its reputation as the whisky capital of the U.S., boasting more than \$3 billion worth of active distillery projects. The largest of these projects is underway in Bardstown, about 40 miles southeast of Louisville, where [Heaven Hill Distilleries Incorporated](#) (Bardstown) is underway with construction of a grassroot distillery. The first phase of construction, which began in 2022 and is expected to wrap up later this year, includes a new whisky production area, a grain-receiving building, grain lab and fire pump building and will result in production of 150,000 gallons per year of whisky products. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

Another project in Bardstown also is set to be completed by the end of this year. [Bardstown Bourbon Company](#) (Bardstown) is expanding its distillery with a 15,000-square-foot building addition that will include 16 new fermenters, a new distillation column, grain-handling equipment and more to increase production capacity to 55,000 barrels per year. General contractor [Buzick Construction Incorporated](#) (Bardstown) began construction on the expansion about a year ago. Subscribers can [click here](#) to learn more.

In addition to these and other larger projects, Industrial Info also is tracking more than 120 active projects planned or underway at craft breweries and distilleries, which produce smaller batches of beverages of reputedly higher quality or that has unique attributes. Many of these are being built on brownfield sites, often with historic ties to the industry or community. [Big Spring Spirits](#) (Bellefonte, Pennsylvania), a distiller taking pride in its Pennsylvania ingredients and locations, is putting the finishing touches on a mixed-used project that includes a new distillery at the site of the last pre-Prohibition whisky distillery in Pittsburgh. The project emphasizes the location as a place to enjoy Big Spring's products, with a rooftop bar and a marketplace featuring local merchants. Subscribers learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

In a similar project, [New Realm Brewing Company](#) (Atlanta, Georgia) is nearing completion of a development featuring a craft brewery at a historic cigar warehouse dating back to 1882 in Greenville, South Carolina. The external features of the historic building will be largely preserved, while interior renovations will modernize the facility for today's consumers. In addition to the brewhouse, the facility also will feature dining and meeting spaces. Subscribers can learn more by viewing the [project report](#).

Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Food & Beverage Database can [click here](#) to view reports for all of the project discussed in this article and [click here](#) for the related plant profiles.

Industrial Info Resources (IIR) is the leading provider of industrial market intelligence. Since 1983, IIR has provided comprehensive research, news and analysis on the industrial process, manufacturing and energy related industries. IIR's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) helps companies identify and pursue trends across multiple markets with access to real, qualified and validated plant and project opportunities. Across the world, IIR is tracking over 200,000 current and future projects worth \$17.8 trillion (USD).



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U.S. Home to \$17 Billion in Cargo Port Projects

Amid rising container activity at cargo ports across the country, Industrial Info is tracking about \$17 billion worth of active and planned projects at U.S. cargo ports, 50% of which is attributed to expansion projects.

February container activity at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which handle about 40% of all cargo containers entering the U.S., jumped 60% and 24.1% year-over-year, respectively.

"With American consumers still spending and economic indicators positive, the Port of Los Angeles is well-positioned as we move into the second quarter," said Gene Seroka, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, at a March 18 media briefing.

In a March 13 press release, the Port of Long Beach said "cooling inflation, rising consumer confidence and an ongoing effort to recapture market share" boosted the port's volume of handled cargo in February. The Port of Los Angeles processed 781,434 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) that month, while the Port of Long Beach handled 674,723 TEUs.

The latter port's major effort is its new **Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility**, which will be completed in segments. It is designed to double the size of the existing Pier B rail yard and more than triple the port's annual on-dock rail cargo handling capacity, from 1.5 million TEUs to 4.7 million. The port said in November it planned to solicit bids for the first segment of construction during the first quarter and start construction in the fall.

In the November press release, the port said constructing the facility involves adding more than 130,000 feet of rail, quadrupling the number of tracks from 12 to 48 and widening the rail bridge over the Dominguez Channel from two to three tracks, among other work. Subscribers to Industrial Info's Global Market Intelligence (GMI) Industrial Manufacturing Project Database can [click here](#) for the related project reports.

"We're eager to break ground and start laying new tracks for this transformative facility," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Bobby Olvera Jr. "Expanding and modernizing this rail yard allows our port to move more cargo faster, more efficiently and more safely to markets across the nation."

Other ports also are seeing a boost in container activity. The Georgia Ports Authority's (GPA) Port of Savannah handled 14.4% more container units in February year-over-year (451,670 TEUs); this followed another month of growth in January. According to the GPA, the port is the closest and fastest port (by rail) to major cities such as Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Charlotte, North Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; and Orlando, Florida.

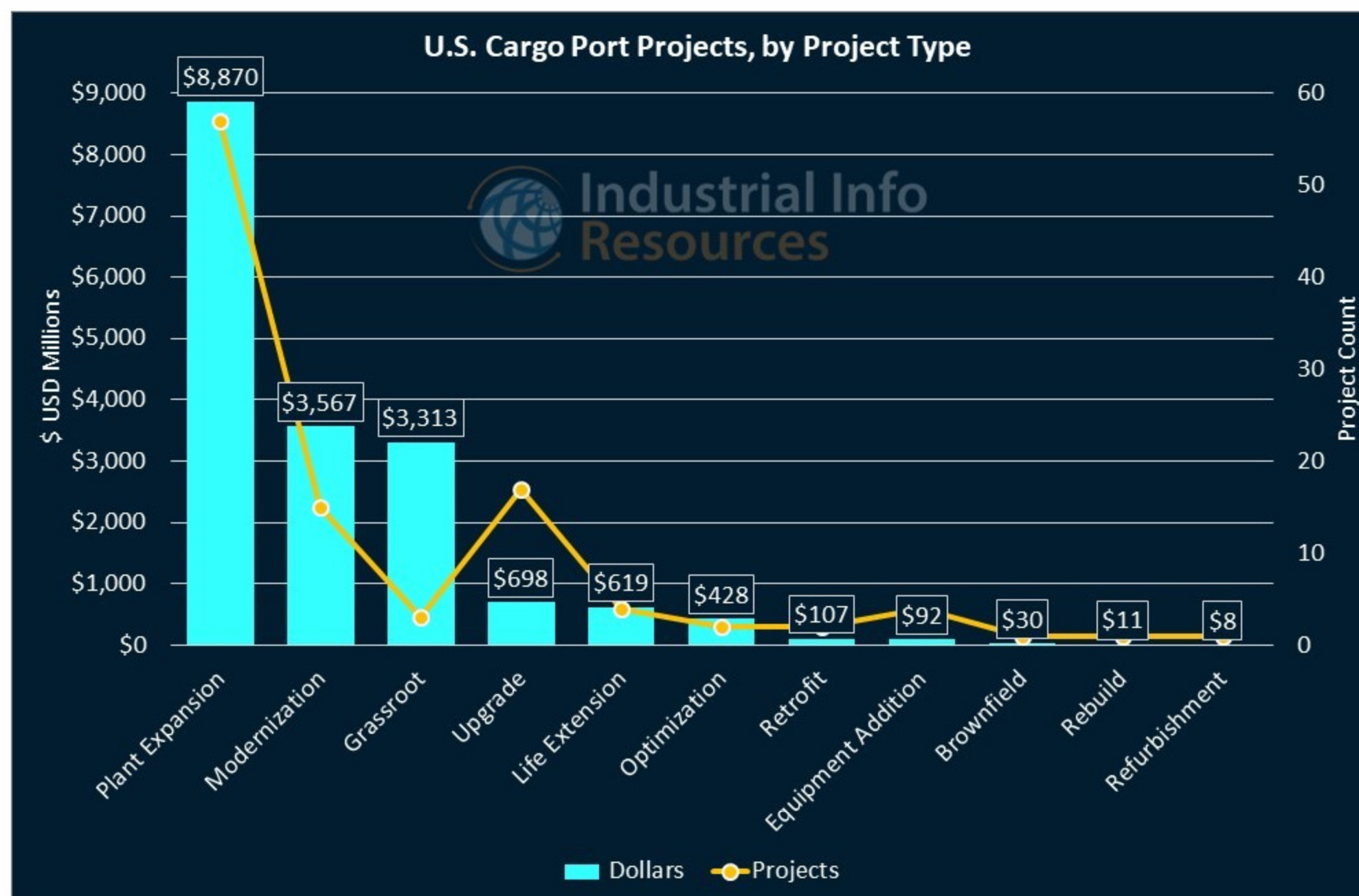
Industrial Info is tracking projects aimed at expanding the port's capacity, including a **\$200 million Phase 2 expansion of the Garden City Terminal West**, which is under construction and designed to add 1 million TEUs of annual rail capacity. Expected to wrap up around the end of the year, the project entails constructing a new container storage yard, an in/out gate complex and about one mile of roadway connecting the new yard and the terminal. Later this year, the port aims to begin a **\$250 million Phase 2 modernization of the port's Ocean Terminal**, which entails transforming the terminal into an all-container operation, which will shift most of its breakbulk cargo to the Georgia Port Authority's Port of Brunswick. "Breakbulk" refers to cargo not in shipping containers, but smaller containers such as bags, boxes, crates, drums or barrels.

Subscribers can read more information on the [Garden City](#) and [Ocean terminal](#) projects.

Also underway are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) efforts to construct a new lock at the Soo Locks shipping channel, located along St. Mary's River in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan. A ship lock works to raise ships to higher or lower elevations, and this particular system enables ships to travel between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes by allowing vessels to be raised or lowered 21 feet.

The site currently consists of four locks as well as two decommissioned locks. However, only the Poe Lock has the necessary dimensions to serve all of the vessels that pass through. "Nearly all (88%) domestically produced advanced high-strength steel used to manufacture products like automobiles and appliances is made with taconite (iron ore) restricted by vessel size to the Poe Lock," the USACE said in a press release last year. "The New Lock at the Soo project is constructing a second Poe-sized lock (110 feet by 1,200 feet) in the existing footprint of the decommissioned Sabin Lock.

The **Phase 1 upgrade at Soo Locks**, which deepened an approach channel in preparation for the new lock, wrapped up in 2022. The two subsequent phases already are underway: **Phase 2** includes rehabilitating the upstream approach walls to stabilize the existing approach walls, allowing modern vessels to tie up and wait to pass through the new lock; the completion is expected this summer. **Phase 3** involves demolishing an existing lock, constructing the new lock chamber walls and floor, installing mechanical and electrical systems and constructing a new pump well; the project is estimated to wrap up in summer 2030. Subscribers can see the project reports on [Phase 2](#) and [Phase 3](#).



Subscribers to Industrial Info's GMI Database can [click here](#) for a full list of active and planned projects at U.S. cargo ports.

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The global Chemical Processing Industry continues to face a strenuous set of circumstances including short-term demand worries, geopolitical conflicts and mixed earnings outlooks. Industrial Info is tracking more than \$2 trillion in active chemical processing projects across the world, including \$665 billion in environmental, social and governance (ESG)-motivated projects globally.

Topics to be discussed in this webinar include:

- ESG-motivated investment spending
- Green and blue commodities
- The capacity-expansion outlook for petrochemicals
- Regional expenditure analysis and comparisons

We hope you are able to join us for this timely and informative webinar. [Click here](#) to learn more and the RSVP.

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