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Tesla to open its first collision center in South Florida



Image: TRG

A Tesla Collision Center was completed at 700 W. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

TRG



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The first Tesla collision center in South Florida has been delivered in Fort Lauderdale.

Delray Beach-based TRG, led by Rob Truett, completed the 44,000-square-foot collision center at 700 W. Sunrise Blvd. and leased it to the Austin, Texas-based electric car giant (Nasdaq: TSLA). Truett isn't sure when Tesla will start operations there, but he expects the facility to support about 50 jobs.

West Palm Beach-based Auto Builders was the general contractor.

This is the second collision center TRG has built for Tesla, as it completed its first Florida collision center in the Orlando area, Truett said.

Florida is the second-leading state behind California for electric vehicle sales and Tesla is by far the top-selling brand of electric vehicles.

Before opening a collision center, Tesla farmed out body repair work in South Florida to local body shops. Truett said the Tesla collision center will speed up the repair process because the mechanics will be specially trained on electric vehicles. Tesla sells its vehicles directly, not through dealerships.

Body repair isn't the only new operation Tesla is starting in Florida. The company filed plans to start selling auto insurance in Florida on Oct. 20, according to regulatory filings. Tesla CEO Elon Musk previously said its auto insurance rates would be based on real-time driving data from Tesla vehicles to assess the driving habits of the insured.

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