

“Third Party Quotes”

1. “Fueled by a fresh vision, Mississippi has an aggressive new approach to doing business. Site selectors increasingly find themselves considering Mississippi because of its new attitude about economic development, its comprehensive programs for infrastructure improvements, and its growing network of colleges and universities.”
 - Business Facilities Magazine, May 2002

2. “Mississippi is well positioned for new economic development thanks in large part to the Advantage Mississippi program and the aggressive package of incentives that were created by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and adopted by the Mississippi Legislature.”
 - Jim Flannigan, President
DeSoto Co. Economic Development Foundation
(As reported in Mississippi Business Journal, July, 2003)

3. “In the Southeastern corner of the United States, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi are positioning themselves as a new seat of U.S. automotive manufacturing and as burgeoning high-tech hot spots.”
 - Area Development Magazine Online, January 2003

4. “New aggressive business strategies and a top notch workforce have made The Magnolia State a force to be reckoned with.”
 - Business Facilities Magazine, May 2002

5. “At the core of Mississippi's fast-paced, on-the-cutting-edge approach is the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, unveiled in August 2000. Subtitled "Mississippi's Vision for Economic Growth and Prosperity," Advantage Mississippi was developed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove, the MDA, and the Mississippi State Legislature. Through this collaborative effort, state officials redefined Mississippi's approach to economic growth and development. Intensive incentive packages to meet the needs of new and existing business and industry were developed. Those incentives and highlights include tax credits and tax-free zones; employee training and support; payroll rebates; solid infrastructure; high-speed data and broadband access; university resources and research; and government support. “
 - Business Facilities Magazine, May 2002

6. "The combination of a superbly productive and highly-qualified workforce with state-of-the-art technology makes Mississippi a desirable place for operations to grow."
 - William Farley, CEO, Fruit of the Loom Company
As reported in Business Facilities Magazine, May 2002

7. "The MDA, the state's economic development arm which helps guide the development of Mississippi's economy by helping create and retain jobs, works closely with new and expanding businesses. MDA also has a powerful presence for minority and women-owned businesses with its Minority Business Enterprise Division."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, May 2002

8. "What Nissan saw in Mississippi was an economic environment and business climate that was well prepared to handle what would become the state's largest-ever automotive manufacturing operation. It's interesting to note that Mississippi was chosen over other Southeastern states that had already proven themselves to be good homes for an automaker."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, June 2003

9. "Mississippi's emergence as a player in the automotive industry stems from an unprecedented collaborative effort to enhance economic development. Government officials, business leaders, and educational institutions combined to provide incentive programs, infrastructure commitments, and a skilled workforce for attracting automotive-related manufacturing facilities."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, June 2003

10. "The Advantage Mississippi Initiative helped Mississippi emerge as the eventual front-runner for landing the Nissan project. The program, developed by the Mississippi Development authority and Governor Ronnie Musgrove, then overwhelmingly approved by the Mississippi Legislature, refined and modified the state's recruitment incentives not just for Nissan, but also to meet the needs of other prospective companies."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, June 2003

11. "Whether you're a cutting-edge research company or a traditional manufacturer, you'll find exactly what you need, at the right price, in Mississippi."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, June 2003

12. "In the second half of 2000, Mississippi made a first step toward attracting higher-paying jobs to the state when it passed Governor Ronnie Musgrove's Advantage [Mississippi](#) initiative."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, April 2001

13. "Of all the economic development projects announced over the past couple of years, Nissan Motor Co.'s \$930 million automobile production facility is far and away the crown jewel in Mississippi's expansion portfolio."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, April 2001

14. "Mississippi is carving a niche in the automotive industry. Why? A long-term strategy for economic development is being developed by a new public/private organization, the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development, which is co-chaired by Governor Musgrove and Dwight Evans, President and CEO of Mississippi Power Co. This new vision driving economic development – called Advantage Mississippi – fuels innovation and a sense of urgency to maximize all resources to meet the needs of businesses and industries considering relocation or expansion in Mississippi."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, February 2001

15. "The factors that led to (Nissan's) selection of the Mississippi site include an available, high-quality workforce, a good site and infrastructure, a supportive business climate, and excellent cooperation and commitment from leaders at the state, local, and federal levels."
 - Business Facilities Magazine, February 2001

16. "The advantages of doing business in Mississippi are more numerous than ever before, thanks to a noteworthy state economic development program designed to attract new investment. Fittingly dubbed Advantage Mississippi, the program offers companies a range of incentives, from tax breaks and employee training programs to assistance with infrastructure improvements and access to university research resources."
 - Expansion Management, September, 2002
"Mississippi Doesn't Wait for Business"

17. "Our experience in Mississippi has been very good," said Daniel Pery, president and CEO of the company. "The work ethic and quality of work of our Mississippi employees is excellent."
 - Daniel Pery, President and CEO
Milwaukee Electric Tool Company
As reported in Expansion Management, September, 2002
"Mississippi Doesn't Wait for Business"

18. "Mississippi expresses its pro-business attitude through its laws. The state levies no sales taxes on the purchase of raw materials, processing chemicals or packaging materials, and there is no tax on the direct purchase of construction materials, machinery and equipment for qualifying businesses. The state has foreign trade zones, competitive unemployment insurance rates, workers' compensation rates and favorable individual and corporate income tax rates. Other prominent programs include the Rural Economic Development Assistance Program, which offers qualifying businesses credits on state corporate income taxes, and the Industrial Development Revenue Bond Program, which offers qualifying companies both taxable and tax-exempt bonds."

- Expansion Management, September, 2002
"Mississippi Doesn't Wait for Business"

19. "With a history that tells tales of antebellum memoirs, Civil War upheaval and Delta-born blues, it may seem like Mississippi is a state grounded in yesteryear. But while it does indeed have a foundation rich in important history, colorful culture and generations of traditions, Mississippi's tomorrow is taking shape on a new foundation of technology and innovation."

- Expansion Management, May, 2002
"A River (of Success) Runs Through It"

20. "Before Nissan, about 30,000 Mississippi residents worked in automotive-related industry. That number is expected to rise sharply in coming years. By 2010, more than 26,000 additional high-wage jobs will be created in this sector, say industry experts. Hourly wage rates at the Nissan plant are projected to be anywhere from \$13.25 for production workers to \$18.50 for maintenance workers."

- Site Selection Magazine, May, 2003

21. "Mississippi's hefty new incentives were vital, too, in Nissan's second-phase expansion. Those incentives emerged from the Mississippi Legislature's June 21st special session. The hastily called one-day gathering came after Nissan and the Mississippi Development Authority had already negotiated at length."

- Site Selection Magazine, May, 2003
(on Nissan's decision to expand the Canton plant)

22. "Mississippi's inviting business climate, coupled with low operating costs and ample labor, translate into a profitable location opportunity for expanding firms."

- Site Selection Magazine, January, 2000

23. "Mississippi's rising fortunes are proving as strong and sure as the flow of the nation's most famous river which shares its name."

- Site Selection Magazine, January, 2000

24. "If your firm needs to fast-track a new facility in the South, don't overlook Mississippi. State officials will act quickly to get your operation up and running ahead of the competition."
- Site Selection Special Feature, January, 2002
25. "Everybody says government needs to think more like a business. But in Mississippi, they've actually done something about it."
- Site Selection Special Feature, January, 2002
26. "Can you say, "emerging economy?" (Mississippi) is really finding its place among New South states. From the glam casinos on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to the growing automotive sector in the central part of the state to the distribution hub that makes up its northern regions, the Magnolia State is generating big deals like never before."
- Southern Business & Development, Spring, 2003
(SB&D Top 100 State Summary)
27. "No state in the South turned more big deals per million residents in 2002 than Mississippi. If you really want to level the playing field, that's the way to do it."
- Southern Business & Development, Spring, 2003
(Top Deals and Hot Markets)
28. "The factors that led Nissan to select Mississippi include an available, high quality work force, an excellent site with appropriate infrastructure, a supportive business climate, and excellent cooperation from state and local officials. Overall, the state offered a comfortable package for our company to begin a new business venture."
- Tom Groom, Nissan Director of Human Resources
(As reported in Southern Business & Development, 2003
"Southern Automotive Corridor Shifts Into High Gear")
29. "According to a study by Stafford Publications' monthly Tax Incentives Report, seven of the nation's most lucrative job creation tax credits come from states in the South. Excellent bottom-line incentive programs based on tax credits were cited in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas in the report. New Mexico, Minnesota and New York also had favorable tax credits for businesses willing to invest and create jobs. Many of the states cited in the report featured large job tax credits for companies locating in rural locations."
- Southern Business & Development, Fall, 2002
(Around the South)

30. "On January 7, Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and the steering committee for the Mississippi Leadership on Higher Education unveiled a new initiative titled "Building Opportunity in Mississippi Through Higher Education." The initiative is designed to the advancement of the Magnolia State's economy through its colleges and universities. Six priorities have been set including building public awareness, expanding and improving pre-kindergarten programs, enhancing college and university partnerships, raising the number of college grads in critical career fields, increasing part-time enrollment/adult education and increasing the state's scientific, technical and research capacity."

- Southern Business & Development, Winter, 2002
(Around the South)

31. "Shortly before Nissan picked a site just north of Jackson for its 4,000-employee, \$900 million truck plant, Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and the Mississippi State Legislature, in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Economic Development, passed the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. The sweeping legislation amended existing economic development programs and created new and innovative incentives. Key elements of the new package include the Mississippi Advantage Jobs Acts, which allows qualifying businesses to receive a rebate of up to 4 percent of their payroll. The initiative also provides a 10-year tax exemption (excluding school taxes) to qualifying companies locating in designated counties, a mixture of tax credit incentives targeting high-tech, research and higher paying jobs, and multi-year commitments for work force training and retention."

- Southern Business & Development, Fall, 2001
(Around the South)

32. "Everything the United States has put in space has come through Mississippi."

- Rod Hartung, volunteer with group spearheading a multi-million dollar space attraction for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
(from The Wilmington News Journal, January 2002)

33. "With the attraction of a major Nissan auto manufacturing plant, the state of Mississippi has shown itself to be a player in the economic development game."

- New Orleans City Business, February 2002

34. "Mississippi is in a position to redefine high-tech in America."

- Jonathan Ortman, President of the Washington, D.C.-based Public Forum Institute
(quoted in The Sun Herald, February 2002)

35. "The state legislature and the Mississippi Development Authority have been very helpful in moving us forward."
- Howard Davidson, chairman of the Booneville-Baldwyn Airport Commission, on proposed airport renovations. quoted in the Mississippi Business Journal, March 2002
36. "The announcement that Eurocopter, a company of international stature, has chosen to build a facility in the Golden Triangle, is another indication that our state can successfully compete with any region of the country for the most highly-skilled manufacturing operations."
- Congressman Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) West Point Times Leader, February 28, 2003
37. "Everything about Mississippi has been positive."
- Dave Doster, Vice President of Alliances & Associations, Visteon Corporation, Clarion Ledger, February 5, 2003
38. "After an extensive search, we are confident that we have chosen the right location to make this project successful. The cooperation and support from the people of Mississippi at the local and state level has been tremendous."
- Gerald Rubin, President & CEO, Helen of Troy, a Texas-based marketer of personal care products (as reported in Picayune Item, Jan. 23, 2003)
39. First and foremost, Mississippi and Alabama have activist governors who go the extra mile to sell their states to industry and do whatever it takes to secure high-paying jobs for their workers. Economic development starts at the top in those states, and the governor, by his emphasis and action, sets the tone for how the rest of the executive branch and the Legislature approach job creation.
- The Bunkie Record, July 2002
40. "It's great to be moving ahead with the development work for this project. Clearly, Mississippi suits our needs perfectly as a location for a new facility."
- Rudy Palladina, president of American Eurocopter quoted in The Commercial Dispatch, July 2002
41. "We have four companies in Mississippi now. We're very proud of our work force in Mississippi."
- Linda Howard, president of Howard Industries quoted in The Laurel Leader Call, July 2002

42. Mississippi business and economic development is committed to bringing more jobs and new companies to the state, as well as investing in the companies already here – hard at work in communities around the state.
- Mississippi Business Journal Editorial, August 2002
43. “The Mississippi Development Authority has done an outstanding job with the planning process, and we believe that the forum gives us an excellent opportunity to hear from the community and lay the foundation for our future.”
- Melissa Oursler, Board President of the Madison County Cultural Center, quoted in The Clarion-Ledger, August 2002
44. “With all the activity and development taking place here, it is hard to believe that the rest of the nation slipped into a recession.”
- Jerry Acy, Executive Director, Madison County Economic Development Authority
As reported in Madison County Herald, Dec. 27, 2001
45. “Corporate officials have noted a favorable business climate, willing workforce, and outstanding quality of life as reasons for coming to the state. Economic development officials throughout Mississippi are communicating that message to prospective business and industrial clients.”
- Congressman Roger Wicker (R-Miss)
(in a column published by the Itawamba County Times, Nov. 7, 2001)
46. “Louisiana’s economic developers were undoubtedly envious that the Magnolia State secured what could be the economic development prize of the decade by aggressively pursuing and capturing the Nissan plant...Particularly galling is the fact that Louisiana was never under serious consideration for the facility. Not getting new industry is one thing...right now, Louisiana is beginning to lose crucial manufacturing jobs to Mississippi.”
- Editorial: Banner Tribune – Franklin, La., Oct. 17, 2001
(referring to Nissan North America and Oreck Vacuum Cleaners moving from New Orleans to Long Beach, Miss.)
47. “The governor of Mississippi is going on a trade mission to Japan. The governor of Louisiana is going to law school. The governor of Mississippi has enticed Nissan to build a (\$1.4 billion) plant near Jackson to employ (5,000) people. The governor of Louisiana is airing television commercials within the state in an industrial inducement effort. Notice the contrasts?”
- Editorial: Advocate (Baton Rouge, La.), Sept. 6, 2001
48. “Man, I hope you’re getting a lot of good done, because you’re causing me a lot of grief, people thinking I should be chasing you around the world.”

- Louisiana Governor Mike Foster, speaking to Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove (as reported in the Shreveport, La. Times, Oct. 31, 2001)

49. "From my experience in working with the Mississippi Economic Development Council over the past few months, I am satisfied that our economic future is in good hands. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our economic development and chamber officials who tirelessly promote our state to improve the lives of all Mississippians."

- Joe D. Jones, CPA, and Publisher of the Miss. Business Journal (in a column appearing in the Miss. Business Journal, July 29, 2001)

50. "Mississippi is laying the groundwork necessary to capitalize on important macroeconomic trends..."

- Frederick W. Smith, Founder, CEO and President, FedEx Corporation (as reported by the Mississippi Business Journal, June 17, 2001)

51. "I was very impressed with the quality of the leadership that we have in this state and the openness to talk about economic development."

- Mike Garrett, President, Mississippi Power Company
On a meeting with Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and other state leaders; as reported in the Sun Herald (Biloxi-Gulfport), June 7, 2001).

52. "The business climate in our state is among the best in the nation."

- Congressman Roger Wicker (R-Miss)
(in a column published in the Starkville News, June 3, 2001)

QUOTES PREVIOUSLY COMPILED (included in MDA's NY Auto Show Press Kit):

53. "...The people in the state government of Mississippi and the Mississippi Development Authority bent over backwards to help us. We never for a moment felt that our jobs weren't important to them. Not once."
- Thomas Butkovich, Thomas & Betts
54. "Due to the programs offered by the state government, Viking has been able to expand faster and with a lower cost of capital than it would have otherwise. Therefore, not only has the company benefited, but the community as well."
- Brian Waldrop, CFO, Viking Range Corporation
55. "It is very rare when a company can find in the same state, both a commitment from government, both local and state, to support new business coming into a state and a workforce with an excellent work ethic as seen in Mississippi."
- Scott Knowles, Vice President, Desert Plastics
56. "I am pleased to witness what good things can be accomplished when government and private enterprise work together to create jobs and invest in Mississippi's future."
- Todd Whitley, McComb Mill
57. "The decision to locate a new Nissan plant is always made after many hundreds of hours of extensive, thorough study. When all was said and done, we were convinced that Mississippi was the best possible location for Nissan's next major manufacturing operation."
- Emil Hassan, Senior VP, Nissan North America