

For Immediate Release
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Musgrove, Lott Announce \$29.5 Million Lockheed Commitment at Stennis

Jackson, Miss.- Today, Governor Ronnie Musgrove, U.S. Senator Trent Lott and Lockheed Martin Corporation officials announced plans to place an advanced Propulsion, Thermal and Metrology Center at John C. Stennis Space Center at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The announcement comes following months of successful negotiations and planning between Lockheed Martin officials, Senator Lott and officials representing the State of Mississippi.

“Creating a climate in Mississippi that nurtures business growth and expansion is the focus of the new economic development plan being created for our state,” said Governor Musgrove. “Lockheed Martin’s decision to locate the center in Mississippi is further recognition that we have the quality workforce, workforce training programs and commitment to business growth that it takes to be competitive and successful.”

“Developing the Lockheed Martin Corporation Center in Mississippi means more jobs, better jobs and a better quality of life for our people,” said the Governor.

“This decision marks the end of a long, but very worthwhile process,” Senator Lott said. “Lockheed Martin has demonstrated a strong attraction and commitment to the state of Mississippi, and this announcement solidifies the company’s plans to create good jobs for our state’s citizens and to bring even more high-technology capability to Stennis Space Center.

As a catalyst for Lockheed Martin’s commitment, the company cited Mississippi’s strong business atmosphere and Stennis Space Center’s unique attributes. NASA’s Stennis Space Center’s mission continues to evolve into that of a multi faceted facility of national and international importance. It is becoming the epicenter for entirely new industries, like remote sensing. At the same time, its existing infrastructure is becoming very attractive to aerospace companies like Lockheed, which seek to consolidate product assembly and testing into a central location.

Construction of the center is expected to begin in May 2001. The center will concentrate on production of spacecraft and thermal systems with co-located metrology services. This activity will be housed in a 220,000 square-foot facility constructed by the State of Mississippi using the funding approved by the Governor and legislature earlier this year. The state and county will also partner with Lockheed to provide specialized training for those who will work at the center.

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