

Mississippi Development Authority **FRIDAY FACTS**

“The Advantage Mississippi Initiative is a new way of thinking about economic development for our state. The Initiative is the beginning of our challenge of the future.”

*-- J.C. Burns
executive director
Mississippi Development Authority*

MISSISSIPPI BASED COMPANY AWARDED FIRST SITE RELATED CONTRACT FOR NISSAN

JACKSON, Miss., January 19 – Today, J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority announced a Mississippi based company has been awarded the first site related contract for the Nissan project.

Eutaw Construction Company, Inc. based in Aberdeen, Mississippi was awarded the contract for the initial site development – phase A. The firm will begin work on the site, Monday, January 22. The contract will be for clearing and grubbing, erosion control, demolition and construction of approximately 3,000 feet of storm drainage pipe.

“I’m pleased that the project is continuing on the fast track as prescribed by Nissan, and I’m proud of the interest from many fine Mississippi companies,” said J.C. Burns.

A total of eight proposals were submitted for consideration of this contract.

Burns added, “It is exciting to see how this project continues to advance to the next stage of construction. Not only are we building a production facility, we are building future opportunities for our people.”

NISSAN UP-DATE

The Mississippi Development Authority held its second press briefing Wednesday regarding how the Nissan project was progressing. The major topic discussed was the timeline for the construction of the \$930 million manufacturing plant.

January 22 – Contracts will be awarded for the first phase of roads and highways development.

February – A supplier meeting will be held and further details will follow.

April 1 – Building pad is ready for the construction of plant building.

April 6 – Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held.

April 10 – Building construction begins.

For the latest information regarding Nissan, please log on to www.mississippiandnissan.com.

SMALL ENTERPRISE LOANS APPROVED TO BUSINESSES

Eleven Mississippi companies have been approved for a total of \$11.3 million in Small Enterprise Development loans, J.C. Burns, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) announced today.

The loans were made possible through the Mississippi Business Finance Corporation (MBFC) under the Small Enterprise Development (SED) finance program. The SED program provides tax-exempt funding for loans to manufacturing and processing companies for fixed assets, which will increase employment and investment in Mississippi communities.

“Our small industries are critical to our growth and prosperity. We have a powerful workforce with a competitive spirit and strong work ethic,” Burns said. “I am pleased that we can support the expansion of small businesses.”

Companies receiving the loans include: Bestbilt Systems, LLC, in Marshall County; Everwood Plastic Products, Inc., in Pontotoc County; Don and Julia Annette Hall and James and Doree Dorris, in DeSoto County; Southern Concrete Products, Inc., and Steel Services Corporation, in Panola County; Greenville Iron and Metal, in Washington County; William H. Seemann, in Harrison County; Spectrum Control, Inc., in Copiah County; The Rose Hill Company, and United Furniture Inc., in Chickasaw County.

STATE TOURISM ENTITIES AWARDED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Tourism organizations throughout the state were recently awarded a total of \$457,964.90 tourism development grants for promotional activities.

Applications submitted by Mississippi Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce with a designated Tourism Council or Commission, or established tourism Councils with the primary objective of promoting tourism were reviewed by a five-member Tourism Advisory Council Grants committee . The committee is composed of the President or their representative for the Hotel/Motel Association; Mississippi Restaurant Association; Mississippi Travel Association plus two additional members recommended by the Chairman and appointed by the Director of the Mississippi Development Authority.

“The matching grants program empowers local communities to partner with the State in promoting Mississippi,” said Renee Ebner, Grants Coordinator for the Tourism division.

Projects are awarded funds that must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the applicant. The next deadline for submitting grant applications will be September 1.

The goal of the matching grants program is to generate increased travel into and/or within Mississippi. Projects must have a broad appeal, targeting markets beyond the local area and make an economic impact on the area through tourism promotion.

Aberdeen Visitors Bureau - \$3,597.50
Covington County Chamber - \$1,385.41
Corinth Tourism Promotion - \$28,654.00
Coahoma County Tourism - \$6,943.93
Canton Convention Bureau - \$3,000.00
DeSoto County Convention and Visitors Bureau - \$975.00
Grenada Tourism Commission - \$1,340.87
Hancock County Tourism - \$15,386.97
Hattiesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau - \$28,654.00
Holly Springs Tourism - \$3,874.50
Lauderdale County Tourism - \$23,876.00
Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau - \$59,807.37
Ocean Springs Chamber - \$7,172.51
Oxford Tourism Council - \$44,270.63
Panola Partnership, Inc. - \$5,000.00
Tunica Convention and Visitors Bureau - \$150,000.00
Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau - \$69,388.29

LAWRENCE COUNTY CDA/CHAMBER SEEKS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Lawrence County Community Development Association and Chamber of Commerce in Monticello are seeking an Assistant Director to handle office and financial management, meeting coordination, newsletter writing and preparation, updating web site, and assist with prospect recruitment and grant-writing. And approximate introductory salary range of \$18,000 to \$24,000/yr. is available, based on the successful candidate's qualifications and experience. A complete job description is available by calling (601) 587-3007. Candidates should send a resume to Paul McLain, Lawrence County CDA/Chamber, P.O. Box 996 Monticello, MS 39654 on or before February 2, 2001. Resumes may also be faxed to (601) 587-0765 or E-mailed to lccda@telepak.net.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH FOR POSITION IN METRO JACKSON

Resumes are being accepted for an Executive Director position in Metro Jackson (Hinds County, Mississippi) area for experienced, proven economic development professional. Degreed with at least 5 years of successful industrial recruitment and existing industry experience. Outstanding results required in exciting, challenging environment. Excellent salary, benefits and perks. E-mail resume in Word or Word Perfect format to: Laldy1@aol.com, or Fax to: Linda Ross Aldy, Search Coordinator for the PACE Group, 601-605-0577, or Mail to: Linda Ross Aldy, Search Coordinator, P.O. Box 2803, Madison, MS 39110.

Briefly –

Tunica River Front Park – Tunica County plans to begin construction on a 168-acre Tunica River Front Park, featuring a marina, visitors center and nature trails. The first phase of construction, which county officials hope to begin this spring, is the marina and visitors center, plus the road system and parking areas.

O Brother Where Art Thou? – According to reports over \$5,149,854.56 was spent in Mississippi as the project was being filmed. The project includes scenes from a number of Mississippi locations; Jackson, Canton, Vicksburg, Di'Lo, Bolton, Leland, Yazoo City, Hazlehurst and Church Hill.

The Mississippi Development Authority *Friday Facts* is distributed to MDA staff, economic and community development professionals, legislators and other interested parties. Inquiries regarding this publication or information should be submitted to Stephen Martin, Communications Office, telephone 601.359.3555; fax 601.359.3596; email smartin@mississippi.org. Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.mississippi.org.