

Mississippi Development Authority

FRIDAY FACTS

"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world."

-- Joel Arthur Barker

GOVERNOR MUSGROVE GIVES NISSAN SUPPLIER UPDATE

Governor Ronnie Musgrove held a press conference on Tuesday to give an update on Mississippi supplier opportunities with Nissan.

Since the announcement of the supplier opportunities, the www.mississippiandnissan.com website has received 306,971 hits and more than 4,900 applications have been downloaded. "The response has been overwhelming," stated Governor Musgrove. "We are thrilled to see this great response from people across the state of Mississippi." Nissan officials have received an outstanding number of applications from Mississippi companies and are expecting to receive the applications throughout Tuesday.

Last week, the Governor and representatives from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) traveled to Gulfport, Tupelo, Greenville, Meridian, Southaven and Hattiesburg to let every Mississippian and Mississippi business know about the tremendous potential supplier opportunities with Nissan. "Our goal was to notify as many people and companies as possible about this opportunity so they would have the best possible chance to apply," said the Governor.

According to the Governor, more than 41,000 Mississippi companies were contacted, and encouraged to submit a supplier application to Nissan for consideration. Applications were mailed to mayors and supervisors across the state and were also made available at the MDA's regional offices. "The new jobs created by these supplier companies means more Mississippians can make the choice to live, work and raise their families right here at home while enjoying a better quality of life," said the Governor.

Nissan will review the supplier applications submitted and contact those businesses that meet their specifications. Companies will have further discussions with Nissan regarding business opportunities during an upcoming supplier meeting to be held in Jackson, February 19-23, 2001.

NISSAN TIMELINE

January 22	Contracts awarded for the first phase of roads and highways development to Eutaw Construction Company.
January 22	Press conference held statewide to announce mailing of 41,000 letters and update on supplier meeting
January 25	Pre-proposal meeting held at 2 p.m. Robert E. Lee Building
January 29	Phase B proposals due to Mississippi Major Impact Authority
January 29	Applications for suppliers due to Nissan
January 31	Phase B contract awarded
February 1	Pre-proposal meeting for Second Earthwork contract – Phase C at 2:00 p.m. Robert E. Lee Building
February 19-23	Supplier meeting to be held
April 1	Turn over building pad to Nissan
April 1	Nissan begins building construction
April 6	Groundbreaking ceremonies

The plant, with a capacity of 250,000 vehicles a year, will produce a full-size pickup truck, a full-size sport-utility vehicle and the next generation Nissan minivan. Production of the first vehicle is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2003. Initially, 3,300 people will be employed, with a potential employment level of 4,000 in the future.

Additional information as it becomes available is posted on the web at:
www.mississippiandnissan.com

MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESS COORDINATORS SELECTED

The Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority announced today the selection of Denotee Martin Contractor, Inc., and Systems Consultants Associates, Inc., as the minority and small business coordinators for the state contracted work for the Nissan project.

The role of these companies will be to work closely with prime contractors, minority contractors, and disadvantaged contractors to facilitate potential participation in the contracts awarded by the state.

These services are being offered at no charge to participating companies to assist them in identifying methods and strategies for involving minority, disadvantaged, and small business participation in the execution of the work with the Nissan project.

For additional information or assistance contact Denotee Martin at 662.534.5921 or Toni Cooley at 601.355.5911.

ANNUAL TOURISM CONFERENCE SET FOR FEBRUARY 4-7

The Governor's Conference on Tourism, the state's annual hospitality and tourism conference, is scheduled for February 4-7, 2001, at the Hilton Jackson in Jackson, Mississippi.

Hosted by the Mississippi Tourism Association (MTA) and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Division of Tourism, the event is expected to attract more than 350 hoteliers, convention and visitors bureaus, restaurateurs and other industry leaders from across the state.

"As the voice of the Mississippi Hospitality Industry, we are excited about this year's conference theme, **On Location in Mississippi**, reflecting changes brought on by the continued growth in movie productions and the new administration," said Ray Phillips, President MTA.

Speakers will address key issues relating to the tourism industry, including topics such as how to stage successful events, golf marketing, working with production companies, working with the media, and increasing web site traffic. The Governor's Awards luncheon will begin Tuesday, February 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Tourism was a \$6.1 billion business in Mississippi last year and was responsible for an estimated 94,100 jobs. MDA's Division of Tourism promotes Mississippi as a destination for business and leisure travel, retirement, operates the States Welcome Centers, and includes the Mississippi Film Bureau.

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GETS NEW RAPID PROTOTYPE MACHINE

Keeping Mississippi industries up and running is a big part of the mission of the Mississippi Polymer Institute at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The mission got easier recently when the institute unveiled a new rapid prototype machine that can make an object from metal in a matter of hours, rather than the days-long process of machining a metal piece.

Using laser technology, the \$400,000 machine can take measurements fed into its computer and build the object one paper-thin layer at a time.

“What rapid prototyping does is allow you to make a model of virtually anything for which you have precise measurements and dimension,” said Dr. Jim Evans, director of the Mississippi Polymer Institute. “It uses stainless steel powder and the laser energy fuses those particles together where you want them fused, so it stays there, and you brush the rest of it away.”

Manufactured by DTM Corp., the Sinterstation 2500-Plus joins an earlier model, the Sinterstation 2000, at the institute. That earlier version, which was acquired in 1995, makes nylon prototype objects.

“The reason we got the new instrument was because the old one was running out of capacity. We couldn’t keep up with the demand and provide the turnaround that folks needed. If we can’t do it quickly, we can’t help them,” Evans said.

Jesse Smith – manager of field services, marketing and training for MPI – said the new metal prototype machine has a wide range of application.

“The injection mold manufacturers in the state can use this new technology to produce molds or prototypes to get their products on the market shelves faster,” he said. “They can bring an idea to us, they can bring a drawing. Ultimately, the idea or the drawing will be converted to a three-dimensional computer design file, which will be entered into the computer, and the machine will build the part.”

The two rapid prototype machines, which are housed side by side at USM’s School of Polymer Science and High Performance Materials, can be very beneficial for local industry, Smith said. Whether a company needs a prototype part for testing or to show a client, or a production part to keep a critical machine up and running, the Mississippi Polymer Institute can deliver, he said.

“We can get you back on line,” Evans said.

Evans said the new metal rapid prototype machine figures to stay as busy as its nylon counterpart.

“We have the only instrument of its kind in the Southeast,” he said.

“Companies can’t afford a rapid prototype machine for their own use. But we can maintain that for their use – at an affordable price.”

EAST MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors of the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation (EMBDC) has elected Wade C. Jones as President of the organization. Glen Deweese, Chairman of the Board, announced the election results recently during their monthly board meeting.

ACT MANUFACTURING, INC. ANNOUNCES IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST CEMS TO ACHIEVE TL 9000 CERTIFICATION FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS QUALITY MANAGEMENT

ACT Manufacturing, Inc., a leading provider of contract electronic manufacturing services, announced recently it is one of the first CEMs to achieve TL 9000 certification. ACT's manufacturing facility in Corinth, Mississippi received the Telecommunications Leadership 9000 (TL 9000) certification, which is the international standard for quality management in the telecommunications industry.

The TL 9000, designed specifically for telecommunications quality assurance standards, is based on the ISO 9001 standard, but with 83 additional requirements ACT Manufacturing is one of only two CEMs to have met these requirements and achieved this certification. In doing so the Company will continue to meet the demanding needs of leading companies in the telecommunications industry.

LOCKHEED LOOKING TO HIRE

Lockheed Martin is focused on hiring Mississippians for its new plant in Hancock County, company officials say. Most of the plant's 270 employees will be from Mississippi, Lockheed spokesman Jack Divers said.

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. An 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.

NATCHEZ ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority seeks an experienced, aggressive, results-oriented professional to plan, direct, and implement the community's economic development strategies. Natchez/Adams County is a community of 35,000 residents in Southwest Mississippi. Requirements include a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university; an economic development certificate from a credentialing agency or equivalent work experience; at least five-years experience managing a staff and office operations; demonstrated grant-writing skills; a willingness to travel at least 25% of the time. Competitive salary and benefit package. Application deadline is March 20,2001. Interested and qualified candidates send resumes to: EDA Search Committee, Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority, P.O. Box 700, Natchez, MS 39121. No telephone calls please.

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.