

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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STATE RANKS NINTH IN BUSINESS-FRIENDLY POLICIES TOWARD ENTREPRENEURS

The Small Business Survival Committee (SBSC) has released its sixth annual ranking of states according to their respective policy climates for small business and entrepreneurship in the "Small Business Survival Index 2001." Mississippi ranked ninth.

According to SBSC chief economist Raymond J. Keating, author of the study, "The Small Business Survival Index 2001" offers a gauge by which to measure and compare how government in the states treats small business and entrepreneurs. Since small business serves as the backbone of the U.S. economy by providing the bulk of new jobs and majority of innovations, every state and local lawmaker should be concerned with the well-being of small business."

"We are pleased to be recognized by the SBSC. Our tax policies, special incentives and a new era of cooperation between the state's public and private sectors, are giving Mississippi a clear advantage. This report is further recognition that we have the commitment to business growth that it takes to be competitive and successful," said J.C. Burns, executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

The index ties together 17 major government-imposed government-related costs impacting small businesses and entrepreneurs across a broad spectrum of industries and types of businesses – personal income taxes, capital gains taxes, corporate income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, death taxes, unemployment taxes, health insurance taxes, electricity costs, workers' compensation costs, crime rates, right to work status, number of bureaucrats, tax limitation status, Internet taxes, gas taxes, and state minimum wages. These measures are combined into one index number – the Small Business Survival Index.

Electric communication will never be a substitute for the face of someone who with their soul encourages another person to be brave and true.

The top 10 most entrepreneur-friendly states under the "Small Business Survival Index 2001" are:

1. Nevada
2. South Dakota
3. Washington
4. Wyoming
5. Florida
6. Texas
7. New Hampshire
8. Alabama
9. Mississippi
10. Tennessee

For a copy of the "Small Business Survival Index 2001," visit SBSC's website at www.sbsc.org. SBSC is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit small business advocacy group headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Correction: In last week's edition of the *Friday Facts*, we incorrectly identified the host of a reception and dinner held August 9 on the Gulf Coast for site location and real estate executives. The event was hosted by Mississippi Power Company.

NISSAN CONTINUES TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS

Automaker Nissan will continue to accept applications for production workers to be employed at its \$930 assembly plant currently under construction in Madison County until the end of the year.

The Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) is handling recruitment for Nissan production workers and maintenance technicians. The MESC unit receives the applications and screens them to ensure applicants meet Nissan's qualifications. MESC then sends the screened applications to Nissan, which does the interviewing and hiring.

Applications may be obtained at any MESC office statewide. Interested parties may also receive an application by sending a self-addressed, stamped business envelope (4 1/2 x 9 1/2 inches) with your name, address and telephone number to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Box 1247, Canton, MS 39046.

For additional information, point your browser to www.mississippiandnissan.com.

STENNIS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES AGGRESSIVE TEST SCHEDULE FOR EMA TECHNOLOGY

The test team at NASA's Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi successfully completed an accelerated test schedule with the third and final test of a three-part test series of the Electro-Mechanical Actuator (EMA) technology used on the former X-33 program's Linear Aerospace XRS-2200 flight engine set.

"This was a very aggressive test schedule," NASA's Dr. Don Chenevert, EMA project manager at Stennis said. "In less than three months, the test team brought the engine back on line and prepared it for the three hot-fire tests which began with a 5.32-second start-sequence test July 12. We couldn't be more pleased with the program or the results."

Electro-mechanical actuators electronically regulate the amount of fuel and oxidizer flowing to the engine. The new technology is a potential

alternative and improvement to the older pneumatic and hydraulic-fluid systems currently used by the aerospace industry to drive and control critical rocket engine valves.

"Propulsion is one of the highest and most critical technology areas that we are exploring," said Dennis Smith, manager of the Second Generation Reusable Launch Vehicle Program Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama. "Our goal also is to find, improve or develop technologies such as airframes, avionics, health management systems and ground operations – all to make getting people and payloads into space safer and cheaper."

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE SET TO BEGIN ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College has entered into a performance contract with Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. for \$4,587,018.00. The institution will make improvements to lighting, HVAC and energy management systems, water management, conservation, vending machine controls, closed circuit television and HVAC operational improvements. When complete, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College will realize an estimated annual savings in energy expenditures of over \$586,256.00.

The Energy Division's role in energy efficiency performance contracting is to review the contract and provide technical assistance leading to the final approval of the contract by both parties.

If you have questions about performance contracting offered through the Energy Division, contact Donnie Thompson at 601-359-6600.



ADVANTAGE MISSISSIPPI

PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

To assist in your economic development promotional efforts of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, MDA has produced a four-color, four-page insert. We are excited to be able to offer this piece to you, our client as one of our services.

Please complete the request form below indicating the quantity needed and fax to the number indicated.

The State of Mississippi is dedicated to economic development in all of our 82 counties and look forward to our continued partnership with your organization.

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

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FAX: (601) 359-3596
Mississippi Development Authority
Post office box 849
Jackson, mississippi 39205

www.mississippi.org

MDA COMMUNITY SELF HELP PROGRAM WELL RECEIVED IN CHARLESTON

Henry Cote', Associate Manager Senior with the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), conducted a Community Self Help program, Thursday, August 9 for the citizens of Charleston, Mississippi.

"We were extremely pleased with the interest shown by over one hundred members of the community who attended the program," said Cote'. The Community Self Help program is a resource for small communities to meet local needs with less financial resources. The \$1 million program is operated with CDBG funds. Currently twenty-three projects are under review by MDA.

"This is a great program that can address the needs of smaller communities. The potential exists for a number of productive projects as a result of the meeting were representative of the comments made following the meeting," commented Cote'.

Self-Help is the development and use of a community's own resources to solve problems for less cost. This approach begins with the answer to a key question, "What can we afford?" It then initiates a local focus of control based on the residents' own capacity and readiness to solve the problem.

Self-Help approaches all resources, including grants and loans, from a different direction and increases the reach of those scarce dollars by reducing the amount necessary to bring improvements to small communities and towns. Over 200 Self-Help communities have proved during the past 20 years, that "the best way to get money is to need less of it."

Average cost savings of better than 30 percent on completed projects have been demonstrated, with an added advantage of significant time savings. Additionally, a sense of community pride and ownership is gained by implementing the project with resident participation.

To find out if Self-Help is right for your community, please contact: Henry Cote', Mississippi Development Authority, P.O. Box 849, Jackson, MS 39205, (601) 359-3179.

SBA DECLARES RANKIN COUNTY A DISASTER AREA

Homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners, located in Rankin County and the contiguous Counties of Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Scott, Simpson, and Smith are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loan assistance from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Disaster Assistance Program. If residents or businesses had some insurance or no insurance, and had any damage caused by the severe thunderstorms and flash floods that occurred on August 12, 2001, they are eligible to apply for this help, according to SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen.

Allen announced today that SBA is opening a disaster loan assistance office on Tuesday, August 21st at the City of Richland Community Center, 410 East Harper Street, in Richland. SBA staff will be available Tuesday, August 21st through Saturday, August 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Beginning Monday, August 27th, personal help will be available Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., until further notice.

"We want everyone who had any damage caused by the severe thunderstorms and flash flooding to come in and personally meet with an SBA loan officer. Our loan team will be glad to answer any questions about the disaster loan program, give you a disaster loan application, and provide any extra help you may need or want with completing the application," Allen said.

SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster-damaged homes. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to replace personal property. Loans to businesses and non-profit organizations of up to \$1.5 million are also available. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) also may be made to small businesses unable to pay bills and meet expenses because of this disaster

The deadline for physical damage applications is October 15, 2001; the deadline for economic injury applications is May 16, 2002.