

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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NISSAN ANNOUNCES PARTNERS IN LOGISTICS CENTER

Nissan North America, Inc., introduced the two partner companies that will build and operate a new Supplier Logistics Center to support production at Nissan's vehicle assembly plant in Canton, Mississippi on Friday, December 7. Integrated Management Services, PA (IMS) and Autrans Corporation will create a joint venture named IMS Autrans, which will provide logistics services and light sub-assembly operations to suppliers of Nissan. IMS, a minority-owned company based in Jackson, Mississippi, will be the majority owner of IMS Autrans.

"We are pleased to welcome IMS Autrans to our business community. This investment in Mississippi and the creation of new, quality jobs sends a message that proves once again that Nissan and Mississippi are a good match," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

According to Emil Hassan, senior vice president, North American Manufacturing, Purchasing, Quality and Logistics, the Supplier Logistics Center is critical to Nissan's production strategy: "Our plan is to have suppliers assemble and deliver modules and components in the same sequence as the vehicles produced on our production lines. This center will provide services to support our just-in-time, in-sequence production requirements."

IMS Autrans will build a 200,000-square-foot facility on the Canton plant site in Madison County, Miss. The facility represents a capital investment of \$15 million. Construction of the new facility will begin in the first quarter of 2002. When fully staffed, IMS Autrans will employ up to 250 employees. From that facility, employees will provide final assembly services for several suppliers that have manufacturing facilities located outside the state of Mississippi and logistics services, including cross docking, part kitting and sequencing for parts delivered to the Canton plant.

IMS Autrans' initial customers include Nissan suppliers Carlex Glass Co., AP Technoglass Co., Douglas Autotech Corp., Nissan Trading Corp U.S.A. and Yazaki North America, Inc.

"The Supplier Logistics Center will be an important link in the Nissan supply chain, and all of us at IMS are excited about the opportunity to take our place in Mississippi's new automotive industry," said John Calhoun, IMS president and chief executive officer.

"Our goal is to support Nissan production by ensuring perfect quality, proactive results and total customer satisfaction," said Autrans Vice President Bob Landis. "We're looking forward to this new venture and the opportunity to establish a business base in Mississippi."

IMS, which is headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is a consulting, engineering and operations firm that provides engineering services,

information technology, and operations and management services throughout the southeastern United States.

Autrans, which is based in Smyrna, Tenn., has provided services to Nissan and its suppliers since 1988. From its facility in Smyrna, Autrans provides assembly and logistics services, including repackaging, sequencing, cross-docking, EDI and inventory control support, for 220 suppliers. The company is certified under ISO 9002 and QS9000 standards. Autrans has operations in North America, Asia and Europe.

To date, Nissan production suppliers have announced investments of over \$250 million in new Mississippi manufacturing plants and service facilities. More than 2,000 new jobs are being created for Mississippi residents by Nissan suppliers.

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. More information on Nissan can be found at www.mississippiandnissan.com.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Henry Ford

CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DESIGNATED GATEWAY COMMUNITY

Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and the Canton Public School District entered into an agreement Tuesday designating the city as one of only four Gateway Communities in the Southeast under the U.S. Department of Energy's Gateway Program.

Under the program, the MDA Energy Division and the school district will collaborate to develop and implement a comprehensive energy management program. The \$17,500 grant will allow the district to retrofit existing lighting in the career center, select five energy coordinators and one energy manager to plan, develop and implement the energy management program. The goal is to reduce the district's energy consumption by 10 percent or more.

Mississippi schools districts have had utility bills increase as much as 40 percent during the last two years. In fiscal year 2000, Mississippi school districts spent more than \$33 million on electricity and \$6 million on natural gas. As a result, the districts have had to explore other methods to manage expenses.

"The savings from the energy improvements will provide additional money for teaching and learning, a better environment for educating students, and increased student, teacher, and community awareness of energy issues," said Verline Underwood, project manager for the MDA-ED Gateway program.

The other three communities that the U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE) has identified as Gateway Communities are: Miami-Dade County, Florida; Spartanburg, South Carolina; and Altherimer, Arkansas. Among the criteria used by the USDOE officials in selecting Canton was the anticipated impact of the neighboring locations of the Nissan manufacturing facility and its suppliers. Officials anticipate the district to increase in enrollment as employees and their dependents move into the area. The energy management program will assist the district lower operational costs and be able to enhance academic instruction.

The MDA Energy Division provides technical assistance and financial assistance to school districts, other governmental entities, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations to develop comprehensive energy management programs, energy awareness programs, and identify methods to promote energy

efficiency in residences, commercial buildings and public buildings.

AREA DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS A SUCCESS

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) recently completed a successful week of seminars throughout the state. The seven area development meetings were presented by MDA to share the agency's vision for economic development and to gain input about issues facing our state.

Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., Executive Director of MDA, along with members of his staff, outlined the various functions, goals and objectives of MDA and discussed how the agency plans to foster new opportunities for economic growth.

"I am pleased to see the level of interest displayed in every community. The people of Mississippi are ready to build stronger communities with good jobs and a higher quality of life. This series of seminars was designed to inform citizens about the work of MDA and to make them aware of the assistance available through our agency," said Rohrlack.

The meetings were held in Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Tupelo, Meridian, Jackson, Brookhaven and Cleveland from December 10 – 13, 2001. Sponsors included: Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development, MEDC and the Mississippi Economic Council.

RHODES NAMED DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

Winston County native Jack R. Rhodes, currently of Madison, was named 2001 Economic Developer of the Year by the National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA) at the association's annual conference in Charleston, South Carolina

Rhodes is vice president of economic development at the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, a statewide service organization for Mississippi's 25 consumer-owned electric power associations.

The Economic Developer of the Year award recognizes an individual whose work has made a significant and measurable contribution to economic development projects in their area, and whose work and leadership have contributed to the accomplishments of the organization.

PRE-CERTIFIED SITE INFORMATION REQUESTED

The March 2002 issue of *Business Facilities* magazine will feature "Pre-Certified Sites" as its cover story. The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) invites you to send us materials detailing any pre-certified site programs available in your community.

MDA would like information about programs that match site selectors with "ready-to-go" sites or facilities. The program may be run by a county, town, private organization or utility, or any combination. "Pre-certified" describes any site that has passed all major approval and zoning processes, or a facility on such a site that is on short notice with minimal redevelopment by a new tenant.

If such a program or programs exist in your area, please send related material to MDA as soon as possible. Be sure the material cover the following:

- who administers the program
- how a site selector or consultant can access it
- whether site listings conform to any standards, such as IEDC (formerly AEDC/CUED)
- whether data can be accessed anonymously and/or publicly
- what level of detail is available
- what geographic area the program covers
- how often the data is updated

Also include whether the pre-certified sites are targeted toward one or more specific industries.

Relevant photography would also be appreciated. Include appropriate credit on each photo. We can accept prints, slides or digital photography (300 dpi).

Please forward all information by **Friday, January 11, 2002**. Send all materials to:

Communications Division
Mississippi Development Authority
PO Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205
601-359-3449 – phone
comms@mississippi.org

MDA appreciates the hard work required to complete this request. Your assistance will help us promote sites and buildings in Mississippi more effectively and efficiently.

USA YEAST TO LOCATE IN GREATER HATTIESBURG AREA

USA Yeast recently announced plans to locate a new facility in the Greater Hattiesburg, Mississippi area. Area Development Partnership (ADP) officials along with representatives from the Mississippi Development Authority, City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County participated in the news conference that took place December 5 at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center.

USA Yeast is a new company with primary investors from Dothan, Alabama. The company will produce yeast for high-speed wholesale baking operations in the Southeast and Midwest United States.

"We are very excited about making an investment in this facility and the Greater Hattiesburg Area. The centralized location to our primary markets and the quality of the electric, water, rail and sewer services here led us to this decision. Area Development Partnership officials made us aware of these services, guided us through the development process and made this a great experience for everyone involved," said Mike Lavalley, a partner with USA Yeast.

The company is expected to employ approximately 50 people. Construction on the company's new facility to be located near the Forrest County Industrial Park on John Merle Tatum Industrial Drive is scheduled to begin this month. "We will be bringing in management teams to begin the interviewing process in late spring early summer of 2002. Our plans are to begin operations in December of next year," added Lavalley.

"This is great news for the Greater Hattiesburg Area, especially in light of the current state of the economy," said Gray Swoope, ADP President. "USA Yeast will be a valuable addition to an already strong industrial base here. The owners of this company are community-minded. They have been involved in their own community of Dothan and we welcome their support and involvement here," added Swoope.

Area Development Partnership officials worked with Forrest County and the Hattiesburg- Forrest County Industrial Park Commission on this project.

The Mississippi Development Authority's *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.



Registration Reminder

The Mississippi Technology Alliance and the Mississippi Development Authority invite you to attend an informational meeting to discuss developing the polymer industry cluster in Mississippi.

This meeting will be held on **December 18, 2001, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Downtown Jackson.

Yes, I will attend the Polymer Industry Cluster Information meeting on December 18, 2001, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Downtown Jackson, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

**To register, please fax back to the
Mississippi Technology Alliance: (601) 960-3605.**

For more information, please contact Heath Hall at (601) 960-3610