

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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SUMMARY REPORTS MISSISSIPPI REALIZES \$1.8 BILLION IN INVESTMENTS

According to the Mississippi Development Authority's recently released "Summary of New and Expanded Facilities Announced in Mississippi, January 2001 thru April 2001," Mississippi has realized \$1.8 billion in estimated capital investment.

The summary reports that 85 new facilities were announced, accounting for an estimated 3,337 new jobs and capital investments totaling approximately \$977 million. Eighty expansion projects were announced, representing an estimated 1,099 new jobs and capital investments of approximately \$846 million.

The largest new facilities announced were:

- ❑ LS Power-Pike Energy, LLC of Holmesville (electric generation plant) \$600 million
- ❑ Chauvet Square of Hattiesburg (commercial and residential development) \$60 million
- ❑ MG Industries of Pass Christian (manufacture of air separation units) \$33 million
- ❑ Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility of Walnut Grove (youth correctional facility) \$29 million
- ❑ Navel Small Craft Training School of Stennis Space Center in Hancock County (U.S. Navy training center) \$25 million

The largest expanded facilities announced were:

- ❑ Mississippi State Port at Gulfport (marine cargo handling) \$160.8 million
- ❑ Clarksdale Public Utilities (electric power generation, transmission and distribution) \$130 million
- ❑ South Lake Centre of Southaven (shopping center) \$60 million
- ❑ Palace Casino Resort of Biloxi (casino and hotel) \$45 million

MINORITY LOAN AWARENESS SEMINAR SET FOR MAY 18

Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority's Minority Business Enterprise Division, Rural Minority Business Development Center along with the Picayune Community Development Department will host a Minority Loan Awareness Seminar Friday, May 18 in the Centraplex at the Mississippi Mall Civic Center located on Memorial Boulevard in Picayune, Mississippi. Registration opens at 6 p.m. The seminar begins at 6:30 p.m. concluding at 8:30 p.m.

There is no cost to attend the seminar; however, pre-registration is required due to limited seating.

"This seminar will be a wonderful opportunity for people to obtain information that could prove to be most beneficial to their businesses. Our goal is to promote the growth and development of minority-owned businesses in Mississippi. This is but one of many tools we utilize to assist the minority business community," said Gennie Lacy Jones, Director, Mississippi Development Authority, Minority Business Enterprise Division.

For additional information or to register, contact Robert Williams with the Mississippi Development Authority at 228-396-9185 or 601-798-9778.

"The block of granite which was an obstacle in the pathway of the weak becomes a stepping-stone in the pathway of the strong."

- Thomas Carlyle

MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESS COORDINATORS HOST MEETINGS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WITH NISSAN PROJECT

The Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority announced this week their plan to afford all businesses, particularly disadvantaged and small businesses, an opportunity to seek business from the Nissan project. Systems' Consultants Associates, Inc., small business coordinator for the project, along with representatives from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will present information at one of 10 seminars at different locations statewide beginning May 10, 2001.

"We are pleased with the continued progress of the Nissan project. When completed the plant will employ 4,000 high paying jobs for the citizens of Mississippi. Other indirect jobs have the potential of reaching upwards of 26,000 and will offer an opportunity for all our citizens to enjoy a better quality of life," said J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Major Impact Authority.

"These seminars should prove to be educational and beneficial to our business community as they prepare themselves to conduct business with the Nissan Corporation," said Gennie Lacy Jones, Director, Mississippi Development Authority, Minority Business Enterprise Division.

Dates for the meetings are as follows:

CITY	DATE
Greenville	Thursday, May 10, 2001
Natchez	Tuesday, May 22, 2001
Hattiesburg	Thursday, May 24, 2001
Batesville	Tuesday, May 29, 2001
Jackson	Tuesday, June 5, 2001
Lexington	Thursday, June 7, 2001
Tupelo	Tuesday, June 12, 2001
Gulfport/Biloxi	Thursday, June 14, 2001
Meridian	Tuesday, June 19, 2001
Columbus	Thursday, June 21, 2001

Systems Consultants Associates, Inc., is tasked 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.

DISTRICT TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR DESOTO COUNTY

The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) has signed a contract to develop a Comprehensive Plan for DeSoto County, the Cities of Hernando and Olive Branch and the suburbs of Memphis. The plan will include the four elements required by Mississippi law: a Goals and Objectives element; a Land Use Plan; a Transportation Plan; and a Public Facilities Plan.

According to the 2000 Census, DeSoto County is the fastest growing county in Mississippi and the City of Olive Branch is the fastest growing municipality. The DeSoto County plan will be prepared in cooperation with the North Delta Planning and Development District. CMPDD initially competed with three other consultants to win the contract before finally being selected to perform the work.

Preparation of the DeSoto County Transportation Plan will be coordinated with development of the *Mississippi Long-Range Transportation Infrastructure Plan (MULTIPLAN)*, which is being developed by the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) in the state. The DeSoto County Planning Commission is the MPO for the Mississippi portion of the Memphis Urbanized Area.

CMPDD will prepare a digital base map of DeSoto County, reflecting all property lines in the Hernando study area and portion of the Olive Branch study area that have not previously been computer-digitized.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan, the District will also recommend revisions to the zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations of each of the local governments and a digital zoning map will be prepared for DeSoto County and the City of Hernando. The District will also revise sign

ordinances for the county, Hernando and Olive Branch. CMPDD will also prepare a prototype impact fee ordinance for Olive Branch and will make recommendations regarding the imposition of impact fees for the county and Hernando. Prototype capital improvement programs will be developed for Hernando and Olive Branch, and capital improvement programming procedures will be recommended for the county.

CMPDD began work on the plan in April 2001 and will complete all services by December 2002.

NAVY AWARDS RAYTHEON \$7 MILLION CONTRACT

The U.S. Navy has awarded a \$7 million contract to Madison-based Raytheon Aerospace Company. The contract will fund 18 flight safety upgrade kits for the Navy's C-12 aircraft, which includes traffic alert and collision avoidance systems, an enhanced ground proximity warning system, weather radar and radar altimeter kits.



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.