

# MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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# FRIDAY FACTS

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## **MDA/NISSAN COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP TRAVELS TO GREENVILLE**

The Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED) of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), in cooperation with Nissan North America, will sponsor the latest workshop in the Community and Business Development Training series. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Greenville Higher Education Center at 2900A Highway 1 South in Greenville, Mississippi.

“The Mississippi Development Authority wants every community in the state to benefit from the opportunities being created through business expansions and locations like the Nissan project,” said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., Executive Director, MDA. “In that effort, we are pleased to offer this informative series to the business community in the Greenville area.”

Representatives from Johnson Controls, Inc. of Murfreesboro, Tennessee and Mi-Tech Steel of Louisville, Kentucky, both Tier 1 automobile manufacturing suppliers, will provide insight into “Becoming an Automotive Supplier.” The workshop will also feature a session detailing “The Importance of E-commerce to Small Business” facilitated by Janice Banks of Small Planet works, a company based in Memphis.

Each session is designed to promote a better understanding of the automotive industry and its benefits to the community, to increase business participation with the industry and enhance the skills of its participants. Other session topics include: “Career Opportunities in the Automotive Industry” and “Using Federal Programs to Grow Your Business.”

Established in collaboration with the Mississippi Minority Contractors Association, Jackson State University, Mississippi Economic Council and the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance, the workshop is open to the public. Other workshops in the series are planned for later in the year.

There is no cost to attend; however, registration is required and seating is limited to the first 100 registrants. To register, contact MBED at (601) 359-3448 or [dfloyd@mississippi.org](mailto:dfloyd@mississippi.org). For more information about the program, visit [www.mississippiandnissan.com](http://www.mississippiandnissan.com).

## **STATE’S ENERGY DIVISION HOSTING FREE MINI-TOURS TO PROMOTE ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH**

The Energy Division of the Mississippi Development Authority will host a series of mini-tours this month as part of the activities to create awareness for October being recognized as Energy Awareness Month. Each tour will highlight a sector as it relates to the efficient use of energy.

Tours are being offered at no charge and meals are provided; however, advance registration is required. The tours, which depart from Jackson, are as follows:

- Southern Swing Bus Tour (October 15)
  - USM Polymer Science Institute
  - Hotel Alice in Ellisville
  - Artificial Marshland Treatment Center in Collins
- Mississippi Lignite Mining Company’s Red Hills Mine (October 17)
- Mississippi River Corporation (October 21)
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw’s Pearl River Resort (October 29)

For additional details or to register, contact Jim Becker or Harriett Hall with the Energy Division at (601) 359-6600 or [jbecker@mississippi.org](mailto:jbecker@mississippi.org).

## **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT TO ATTEND RHYTHMS OF THE SOUTH CONFERENCE**

The Mississippi Development Authority's Division of Tourism Development will attend the first annual *Rhythms of the South* conference October 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta, Georgia. "There are other international shows that exist in the States, but this one is different," says MDA, Division of Tourism's delegate Kristen McCaskill. "This is the first international market showplace to focus solely on the south."

## **TUPELO SITE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND FACILITIES SHOW**

The Industrial and Facilities Expo will be held Oct. 23-24, 2002, in the Tupelo Furniture Market Building One. North Mississippi suppliers will have the opportunity to showcase their products to area manufacturers at the event, which is hosted by the Tupelo-based Community Development Foundation (CDF).

"The North Mississippi Industrial and Facilities Expo is the place for suppliers to focus on the North Mississippi market," said Greg Giachelli of CDF. "Exhibitors will have an opportunity to meet face-to-face with the executives, managers and supervisors who run the area's successful manufacturing operations. This is an economical opportunity for suppliers to promote products to potential customers in the area at a fraction of the cost of any other advertising medium."

Last year's show drew more than 60 exhibitors. "As a participant in this Expo, we connected with manufacturers from the surrounding area that had not been exposed to our product line and could see our products firsthand," said Charles Meador, Martin Supply Company.

The trade show's hours are Oct. 23 from noon until 8 p.m., and Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Exhibitor registration information can be obtained by calling the CDF at (662) 842-4521. A registration form is located on the CDF Web site at [www.cdfms.org](http://www.cdfms.org).

## **BUILDING AVAILABLE IN TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY**

The former Shelby Glove Manufacturing facility located in Charleston, Mississippi is available for immediate occupancy.

This building, owned by the community, is in superior condition and offers more than 81,000 square feet of available space. Constructed in 1993 and with additions built in 1995, this metal building has 38,700 square feet of manufacturing space, 29,700 square feet of warehouse space and 1,700 square feet of office space. The building is 100% heated and 65% air-conditioned and features a 5-inch thick reinforced concrete floor.

The facility, located in the Tallahatchie County Industrial Park, is less than 10 miles from Interstate 55 and is located seven miles from the new Mississippi beef processing facility in Yalobusha County.

For more information, contact Frank Howell at the Delta Council at (662) 686-3365.

## **BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION AND SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are working with local government entities and industries to link solar energy technologies to brownfields redevelopment.

According to Dr. Barbara Ousby, Project Manager for the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Energy Division, "The brightfields approach offers a wide range of opportunities to link solar energy to brownfields redevelopment and thereby transform community hazards and eyesores into productive, green ventures."

EPA officially defines brownfields as "abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination".

Brownfields are usually located in a depressed urban area. Brownfields are significant because the infrastructure is already in place for redevelopment and does not require any new development or use of green space.

Energy funds helped transform brownfields into brightfields with the use of energy efficiency improvements to the facilities. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) currently has available a database with potential brownfield sites.

Through a partnership of MDA's Energy and Community Services Divisions along with the North Mid-Town CDC and Duke Solar Energy LLC, an area in North Jackson once considered a brownfield has been turned into a brightfield. That area is now home to a business incubator that accommodates four businesses. Mid-Town is located in an Urban Empowerment Zone.

Solar systems were installed in a Montessori School and on a Habitat home in the North Mid-Town area in August 2002. A press conference was held at the Habitat house on August 23, 2002, to announce the award of \$50,000 to the state of Mississippi for the Million Dollar Solar Roof Program.

The economic benefits of the solar industry and community development project will provide an opportunity to attract environmentally conscious businesses that are supporting green investments or locating in more environmentally friendly industrial parks. Solar provides a great opportunity to create new jobs and spur local markets for solar energy systems.

For additional information about brownfields or brightfields, contact Barbara Ousby or Wes Miller with the Energy Division at (601) 359-6600.

### **MEDC AND PARTNERS COORDINATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Mississippi Economic Development Council (MEDC), Entergy Mississippi, Mississippi Power Company and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will be coordinating economic and community development tuition scholarship assistance again this year.

Tuition scholarships may be used for the New South Economic Development Course, the Community Development Institute, the Chamber Institute and the Economic Development Institute. Applicants must have a current individual MEDC membership. Priority will be given to individuals who are recently entering the economic/community development field, demonstrate a need for the requested training, are willing to make a commitment to participate and require financial assistance in order to attend.

The application deadline is November 30, 2002. For more information or for a copy of the application, contact June Needham-Thomas with MDA at (601) 359-3179.