

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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2002 A NEW YEAR BEGINS

Monday is New Year's Eve, a time for celebration, friendship and hope. Two thousand one has been a good year for Mississippi, and this coming year can be even better. The celebration of the new year is an occasion for optimism and hope; it's full of dreams for the years ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for your support. We look forward to working with you on the issues of importance to Mississippi's economic growth. We also are looking forward to working with our various state and local officials to enhance the lives of the 2.8 million citizens of our state.

Mississippi is poised for continued economic progress and prosperity as a result of the passage of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. Our plan for economic development is the vehicle that drives economic development in all 82 counties of Mississippi. We are heading down a road of success...a road that will lead to us to increased progress and prosperity. We have momentum. We are serious about economic development and moving our state forward in terms of jobs, technology, and strategic alliances.

Governor Musgrove in his inaugural speech, referred to Mississippi as "America's State of Promise." We believe in his vision for our great state. We believe we are poised for success and we are proud that we are getting the recognition we deserve across this country.

We are attracting the attention of national and international companies. Major corporations have their eyes on Mississippi. We should all

be proud to be in a positive position to attract major businesses and industries to our state.

Let's keep the momentum going this new year. Let's continue working together to improve Mississippi.

Thank you once again for the great job you are doing. Your efforts are appreciated.

We wish you and your family a very happy new year.

-Mississippi Development Authority

NISSAN SUPPLIERS BRING MORE JOBS AND INVESTMENTS TO MISSISSIPPI

Nissan project produces \$250-million increase above \$930-million plant investment.

The production suppliers announced by Nissan North America to date represent an additional \$250 million. This also equates to 2,000 jobs.

The first supplier announcement was made in July. Three new production plants would be built next to the Nissan plant. It was also announced four new production plants would be built within two miles of the Nissan plant, and another plant would be built in Vicksburg.

The second round of suppliers was announced by Nissan in November. Four of the six companies will partner with existing Mississippi firms. One supplier will build a plant in Forest and another has plans to build a plant in Vicksburg.

So far, the combined investments of Nissan and production suppliers represent \$1.1 billion and a combined 60,000 jobs. Almost 40,000 have applied for jobs at the Nissan plant.

MISSISSIPPI'S GOOD NEWS

Site Selection magazine selected the Nissan as one of the Top Ten Site Locations in the United States.

Corporate Location magazine selected the Nissan project as the Top Deal of the Year 2000.

Southern Business & Development magazine named the Nissan announcement as the Top Deal of the Year.

Area Development magazine named Nissan as one the Top Ten Creation Projects of the Year.

Site Selection magazine selected the Mississippi Development Authority as one of the Top Ten Economic Development Organizations in North America.

WINTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM JANUARY 16, 2002

Conference to focus on "The Role of Community Development in Creating Economic Prosperity in Mississippi"

Community Services, a division of the Mississippi Development Authority will conduct a winter symposium, January 16 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson.

According to Sam Mozee, director, Community Services, "The purpose for this event is two-fold. Our objectives are to assist local officials better understand the various components to successful economic development and share with our local officials the various funding sources available for community/economic development such as CDBG, HOME, Rural Development, HUD, State Foundations, Colleges and Universities."

"I look forward to participating with this event to share the issues of importance to Mississippi's economic growth. Mississippi has been a leader and an innovator in its economic development efforts, particularly with the

Advantage Mississippi Initiative passed last year. We must continue to work to attract business and industry. This event should prove to be most beneficial to our progress," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

The program will consist of opening remarks by Governor Musgrove followed by a presentation by the executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr. on his economic development philosophy. Next will be a panel discussion of the building blocks of economic development. A round table discussion will focus on public/non-profit funders. The event will conclude with a wrap-up and summarization.

For additional information, please contact the Community Services division at 601-359-3179.

MS CITIES RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AS BEING BEST FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Entrepreneur magazine and Dun & Bradstreet crunched the data to determine this year's best cities

The cities of Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula and Jackson have been ranked as one of the nation's top entrepreneurial spots.

This year four basic criteria were used in determining the ranking of the top cities: entrepreneurial activity, small business growth, and economic growth and risk cities. A point system was then used to determine each city's overall ranking within a specific region.

For more information, please visit www.dnb.com.

The Mississippi Development Authority's Friday Facts is distributed to MDA staff, economic and community development professionals, legislators and other interested parties. Inquires regarding this publication or information should be submitted to Stephen Martin, Communications office, telephone, 601-359-3449, fax 601-359-3596, email smartin@mississippi.org. Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.mississippi.org.