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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MISSISSIPPI MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT
AUTHORITY RELEASES DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES PARTICIPATION
STATUS**

JACKSON, Miss., - The Mississippi Major Economic Authority (MMEIA) announced today the most recent results regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation in the state's engineering and construction activities for the Nissan project.

The report reflects the status of work awarded or funded to disadvantaged business enterprise contractors by the MMEIA through December 31, 2002. Contracts awarded to disadvantaged business enterprise contractors totaled \$33,687 million for a participation level of 22.6 percent.

"We are pleased with the findings made by this report. MDA is dedicated to the growth and development of minority and women-owned businesses in Mississippi. We will continue to work to improve the environment in which they operate," said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority.

"The state has been diligent about completing work related to the Nissan project while meeting stringent timelines and remaining within budget. Throughout the process the State has been able to partner with several disadvantaged business contractors to complete these important construction projects," said Dr. C.R. "Buzz" Canup, project director for the Nissan Implementation Team, Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority.

Total contracts for the state related work for the Nissan project currently exceed \$148.6 million.

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