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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDA/NISSAN COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP HEADS TO GREENVILLE

Jackson, Miss. – 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. For more information about the program, visit www.mississippiandnissan.com.