

Mississippi Development Authority
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EMBARGO UNTIL 11:00 CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

PICAYUNE SELECTED AS SITE FOR AVIATION MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

JACKSON, Miss., - Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority announced today, Chevron U.S.A. Production Co. will relocate its aviation maintenance operations currently based at New Orleans Lakefront Airport to the Picayune Municipal Airport in Mississippi.

“We are delighted to welcome Chevron U.S.A. Production Co. to Picayune. This project will boost Mississippi’s growth and economic positioning for this area of our state. These kinds of economic opportunities only happen when people work together to make a difference. I commend and thank the various company officials along with our elected officials for making today a reality,” said J.C. Burns, executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

Chevron recently signed a seven-year lease with Magnolia Air I, for use of apron space and a new 37,847 square-foot maintenance and office building, to be built by Magnolia Air. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held today. Chevron plans to complete the move by the end of March 2002.

According to Steve Sabree, Chevron aviation operations manager, the move inland to higher ground in Mississippi is intended to eliminate the likelihood that maintenance equipment, spare parts and aircraft could be damaged by flooding, as occurred during Hurricane Georges in 1998.

“The new facility in Picayune will provide us with the confidence and peace of mind that we will be able to provide reliable support to our offshore aircraft operations,” said Sabree. “That’s especially important during those critical times when we’re evacuating offshore employees from the potential threat of a hurricane or tropical storm and during redeployment following a storm.”

Currently 73 Chevron employees and three contract personnel perform maintenance and administrative tasks at the Lakefront facility supporting company-owned aircraft used for oil and gas exploration and development operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

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