

Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205-0849

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephen Martin, 601.359.3555
Date: September 5, 2000

MISSISSIPPI SELECTED AS SITE FOR LOCKHEED MARTIN CENTER

JACKSON, Miss., - The John C. Stennis Space Center located in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi has been selected as the site for the Lockheed Martin Propulsion Thermal and Metrology Center.

The State of Mississippi along with Lockheed Martin's Space Systems and Technology Services, Hancock County and NASA are working in partnership to establish the operation. Lockheed Martin Space Systems will operate the Propulsion and Thermal functions of the Center. Lockheed Martin Technology Services will be responsible for the Metrology portion of the Center.

"This is another great example of how Mississippi is able to compete and attract high-tech industry. This facility will represent the creation of 270 new jobs when the center begins operation in the fall of 2001," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

The 220,000-square-foot center will include the production of propulsion systems, such as thrusters used for satellites and other spacecraft produced by Lockheed Martin Space Systems. The thermal control systems produced at the facility protects space vehicles from extreme temperatures.

According to J.C. Burns, executive director, Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development, "Mississippi is positioned for business. The confidence displayed by Lockheed Martin to select Mississippi telegraphs a powerful message that our combination of a strong labor force and talented individuals contribute to our continued economic success."

Lockheed Martin, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland is a global company involved with research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced-technology systems, products and services. The Corporation's core businesses are systems integration, space aeronautics, and technology services.

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Media Contact: Stephen Martin, 601.359.3449
Date: September 1, 2000

MPI SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY HONORED WITH AWARD

JACKSON, Miss., September 1 – The Southern Growth Policies Board announce MPI Software Technology, Inc., in Starkville, Mississippi is the recipient of the 2000 Governor’s Cup Award. The award was won in the category of 50 or fewer employees.

MPI develops networking technology software and “messaging middleware” that enables groups of personal computers and servers to work together, duplicating the performance of much more expensive supercomputers.

“MPI is to be commended for the outstanding work they are doing in the field of computer technology. To be recognized with a Southern Growth Policies Board Governor’s Cup award reflects highly upon the company and the people of Mississippi,” said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

The Governor’s Cup awards showcase businesses in the South that are successful and have boosted economic development by employing people, contributing to their communities, helping create a highly skilled workforce, and other factors. MPI will accept their award at Southern Growth’s fall board meeting, concurrent with the Southern Governors Association fall meeting.

MPI Software Technology Inc. was launched in 1996 based on research done by its founder, Dr. Anthony Skjellum at Mississippi State University. The company began in the Golden Triangle Enterprise Center, a technology business incubator in the Mississippi and Research and Technology Park in Starkville, Mississippi in 1999.

Southern Growth develops and advances policies by providing a forum for partnership and dialog among Southern governors, legislators and stakeholders from business, academia and economic- and community-development sectors. The organization provides research, information and cutting-edge projects. Southern Growth is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization supported by the governments of 13 Southern states and Puerto Rico.

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**STATE TOURISM DIRECTOR HONORED BY NATIONAL TRAVEL
PUBLICATION**

JACKSON, Miss., - Darienne Wilson, director of Tourism for the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development (MDECD) has been named, One of the 100 Most Powerful Women in Travel by Travel Agent magazine, a national weekly industry news publication.

This is the fifth year the publication has produced the special edition profiling the individuals and their achievements. The 100 Most Powerful Women are selected by the editors, reporters and associates of Travel Agent magazine.

“This is truly an honor to be recognized as a force in the hospitality industry by a national publication. The thousands of people working everyday throughout the state in the travel and recreation industry are really the ones that deserve the special recognition for what they are doing everyday. These are the individuals meeting the needs of our visitors and making a difference,” said Darienne Wilson.

Prior to joining the MDECD as director of Tourism, Wilson served as executive director of the Mississippi Tourism Association. Wilson is a certified association executive and certified tour professional. She was recognized in 1986 by the International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus for the Best Tourism Promotion and was named Executive of the Year in 1991 by the Mississippi Society of Association Executives. In 1999 she received the Mississippi Travel Association’s Tourism Achievement Award for the Decade.

Tourism Development is charged with developing and promoting domestic and international tourism programs, as well as managing the state’s Welcome Centers and the Mississippi Film Office.

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Tourism
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Stephen Martin, 601.359.3297
Date: September 6, 2000

TOURISM DIVISION CONDUCTING RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

JACKSON, Miss., September 6 – Tourism Development, a division of the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development is conducting an assessment of new outdoor recreational activities and facilities.

“People from across the nation are discovering the bountiful natural resources that make Mississippi one of the most popular outdoor destinations in the country. Keeping an accurate inventory of our outdoor assets is an important element of the promotional activities we are involved in,” said Darienne Wilson, director, Tourism Development. Nearly half of all Americans (45%) say they “engage in outdoor recreation as a family” at least once a month, and over one in ten (11%) do so more than once a week. “Our *Outfitters Guide* and our *Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation Guide* have proven to be very popular highlighting the number of outdoor recreational activities available in Mississippi. The increased interest in outdoor recreation is serving as a catalyst for the development of new facilities and activities. In order to capture our share of this market it is important to be familiar with the variety of new offerings we have for potential visitors,” added Wilson.

The information, collected through local Convention & Visitors Bureaus and Chambers of Commerce will enhance the comprehensive information base currently utilized by the Tourism division. The data collected will be organized and published in future tourism publications and also posted to the division’s web site. Tourism publications are distributed through the state tourism office to anyone requesting information on Mississippi.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their local tourism organizations and Chamber of Commerce to submit details regarding new developments in their area.

For additional information, contact Cynthia Holifield at the Mississippi Division of Tourism at (601) 359.3297.

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