

Mississippi Development Authority
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry R. Vance, Director of Communications
601.359.3449
Date: May 2, 2002

MISSISSIPPI WORLD TRADE CENTER OPENING CEREMONIES HELD

Jackson, MS...Governor Ronnie Musgrove and Herb Ouida, executive vice president of the World Trade Center Association of New York, officially announced today the opening of the Mississippi World Trade Center (MSWTC). Ouida presented the formal charter for the center to Governor Musgrove and directors of the MSWTC.

"Through the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, one of our primary objectives was the establishment of our World Trade Center. The opening of the center demonstrates our determination to promote Mississippi in the global marketplace," said Governor Musgrove. "This center brings global attention to our state and announces to the world our commitment to international economic development and our ability to compete on a global basis."

The MSWTC will serve as a central site for the coordination of international programs and services in the state. Members and clients will have access to many new international services not previously offered. The center will focus on international trade, investment, education, tourism, and cultural exchange opportunities for Mississippi.

"This is an exciting day for Mississippi's business community. With the creation of our new World Trade Center, we will expand our ability to create globally diverse programs and services for our businesses," said Barbara Travis, executive director of the MSWTC.

The MSWTC was formed through a partnership between public and private groups and included, the Mississippi Development Authority, the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development Services, the United States Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, the International Trade Clubs of Mississippi, the Mississippi District Export Council, BellSouth and educational institutions from across the state.

Other entities that will be located at the MSWTC include the United States Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, Mississippi Development Authority trade specialists, and the Mississippi Economic Development Council.

###