

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** John Sewell

601-359-2916

**GOVERNOR MUSGROVE WELCOMES EADS AND AMERICAN EUROCOPTER TO  
MISSISSIPPI**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today welcomed the announcement by American Eurocopter, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EADS, of its plans to construct a facility in the Golden Triangle area of Mississippi. The creation of 100 skilled jobs and an annual payroll of \$5 million is expected to have an impact of more than \$17 million in the Columbus area.

“On behalf of the citizens of Mississippi, I would like to welcome EADS and American Eurocopter as new partners in our business community. American Eurocopter Mississippi is committed to their investment in Mississippi and the state is dedicated to building a long-term, pro-business environment. This adds up to another success story that impacts the lives of our citizens,” said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

Marc Paganini, President and CEO of American Eurocopter commented, “American Eurocopter is pleased that it has found an ideal location for expanding its activities in the United States in Mississippi’s Golden Triangle. This new plant will play a vital role in the manufacturing and assembly of the world’s most modern helicopter product line, serving both the commercial and homeland security markets.”

“This is great news for Mississippi. This endeavor involved tremendous teamwork from elected officials, great work from our economic development partners as well as local businesses. We appreciate the effort that went into the recruitment of American Eurocopter and are grateful for them choosing Mississippi,” said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

Training for the Mississippi employees will begin immediately. Operations in a temporary facility adjacent to the new American Eurocopter plant are slated for March of 2003. Construction of the Golden Triangle facility is planned to commence in the first quarter of 2003, with completion for the third or fourth quarter of 2003.

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