

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Celebrates Opening of Unipres in Forest

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove attended the opening of the 150,000 square foot Unipres operation in Forest, Mississippi, today, saying the Nissan supplier was another success story that has companies from around the world looking at the state.

“The image of Mississippi has changed,” Musgrove said. “It’s changed to an image of a state that is moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century, a state that is competing and leading in the global marketplace, a state that is setting new standards in education and economic development.”

Unipres will supply body stampings for the Nissan facility located in Canton.

The 3.5 million square foot Nissan facility is scheduled to open in May 2003, and will eventually produce 400,000 vehicles a year. More than 5,000 jobs have been created through the \$1.5 billion facility.

“We’re looking to the future of Mississippi, and charting where we want to go,” said Musgrove. “Our end goal is to build on our promise and potential, and to build a state based on good schools, good jobs and good communities.”

Mississippi was listed by “Site Selection” magazine last year as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities. In September 2001, the state was named one of the top ten states for small business survival. Under Musgrove’s leadership and during a national recession, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion.

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