

Lockheed Martin/Stennis Space Center
Groundbreaking
10:00 a.m.
Friday, September 1, 2000

Talking Points

- Good Morning. It is a pleasure for me to be here this morning with Senator Lott, Dr. Coffman, Congressman Taylor and Rocky Pullman.
- Roy, I want to thank you for hosting us here at the Stennis Space Center. I am always somewhat awed by the Center and the great work that is being done right here in Mississippi.
- You and your staff have done a tremendous job here at Stennis and you have positioned the Center and Mississippi in the spotlight of the nation. We appreciate your work.
- What an exciting time for this state, and for the people of our state.
- This has been a week filled with great progress.
- On Wednesday of this week I had the honor of signing Senate Bill 2002 – The Advantage Mississippi Initiative.
- For the first time in 11 years Mississippi has an economic development plan that addresses the challenges of a global economy.
- We appreciate the support that Senator Lott has expressed for our economic development plan as we also thank the many business organizations and individuals that gave valuable input and support of our efforts to implement this plan for the future.
- A sound, comprehensive plan is now in place.
- The Advantage Mississippi Initiative will bring more good jobs to the people of our state, and it helps create a better quality of life for Mississippians in all 82 counties of our state.
- Public, private, corporate and community leaders along with elected officials worked together and voted together to pass this plan for the people of Mississippi.
- Our new plan gives Mississippi the competitive edge over other states.

- We must have good, high paying jobs for our people, and that is why we will not concede one inch to any other state when it comes to jobs.
- That is why today's announcement by Lockheed Martin Corporation to build their new Propulsion, Thermal and Metrology Center at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi is so important.
- Their investment in Mississippi means more jobs for Mississippians.
- It also means the potential for even more jobs in the future.
- Lockheed Martin's decision to locate the center in Mississippi is further recognition that we have the quality workforce, workforce training programs and commitment to business growth that it takes to be competitive and successful.
- Lockheed Martin Corporation has shown their faith in the state of Mississippi by making this expansion. I want to thank you, and congratulate you, for choosing Mississippi.
- As Senator Lott said, today was made possible thanks to the hard work of many people.
- It was a team effort on all levels, and I would like to thank each of you for your efforts to bring prosperity and growth to Mississippi.
- Because of the hard work of many individuals and agencies we are able to celebrate the arrival of this new center to Mississippi.
- J.C. Burns, Director of the Mississippi Development Authority and the members of his leadership team have worked closely with Senator Lott's office and with Lockheed Martin Corporation officials to solidify the center's location to the state of Mississippi.
- J.C. – Thank you.
- Our administration is building a strong relationship with the members of the Mississippi congressional delegation.
- We have made several trips to Washington to visit with our Mississippi friends and supporters and we will be creating a Washington D.C. office to better develop those relationships and to increase our state's effectiveness on a federal level.
- We look forward to a productive future together with other state leaders and to a continued good relationship with Lockheed Martin Corporation.

- We have worked together to expand Lockheed Martin Corporation's investment in Mississippi and because of those efforts we know that we are on our way to a brighter future for all Mississippians.
- Our state is poised to make huge gains in creating quality jobs, expanding the resources of existing Mississippi businesses and attracting the interest of national and international companies.
- We have developed the competitive edge we need to create better opportunities, better jobs and a better quality of life for all Mississippians.
- The nation is taking notice and once again we are proving that Mississippi is America's State of Promise.
- Thank you.