

MDA E-News January 19, 2009

New Jobs, Symposium Registration, Website Debut, Foreign Market Expansion

Holley Consolidating Mexico and Mississippi Operations into Aberdeen Facility; Creating Approximately 55 New Jobs

Holley Performance Products announced on January 16 that it will be moving its Tijuana, Mexico, operations to its Aberdeen, Miss., facility. Holley officials expect the consolidation to transfer approximately 55 jobs to Aberdeen; the Aberdeen facility currently employs 42. Once the consolidation is complete, the Aberdeen facility will be the manufacturing and distribution point for all of Holley's exhaust and header systems.

MDA provided funding for the project to assist with public infrastructure improvements and defray the costs associated with the relocation of equipment from Mexico to Mississippi as well as funding for workforce training. Additionally, The Appalachian Regional Commission provided grant money for public infrastructure improvements.

Holley Performance Products manufactures and markets performance automotive, marine and power sports specialty products. To learn more, please visit www.holley.com.

Register Online Now for MDA's *Mississippi Lake Development Symposium*

Online registration is now available for MDA's *Mississippi Lake Development Symposium* scheduled for February 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex. The event, which is being held by MDA's Asset Development Division, will focus on using two of Mississippi's most abundant and marketable resources - rainwater and rural land - and turning them into assets with long-term benefits. Residential lake developments alone can generate millions of dollars in ad valorem taxes or long-term public benefit revenues which fund local government services and schools. Also, lakes present an economic development tool for areas which may or may not be competitive in a traditional economic development sense.

Maximizing opportunities for lake-centered developments will be discussed at this one-day event that will bring together national, regional and state experts to share their insights and experiences. To learn more or to register online, please visit www.mississippi.org/lakesym.

MDA to Host Roundtables, Debut Website at MEDC 2009 Winter

Conference

The Mississippi Economic Development Council's (MEDC) 2009 Winter Conference, *Innovation Destination*, is scheduled for February 4 - 6 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson. On February 4, MDA will be hosting roundtable discussions to inform attendees and answer questions about the agency's services and available resources.

Additionally, on February 6, Gray Swoope, MDA Executive Director, will discuss MDA's latest programs designed to impact economic development in Mississippi in a session titled *From High-Tech to the New Economic Imperative: Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks*. During the session, Swoope will also discuss the current economy and how economic developers can look at untapped resources to benefit their communities. The session will also include the debut of MDA's sleek new website.

To view a complete conference agenda or to register online, please visit www.medc.ms.

U.S. Commercial Service to Host *Doing Business in the Middle East and North Africa!* ; Event Designed to Help Mississippi Companies Expand to Foreign Markets

The U.S. Commercial Service, the trade promotion unit of the International Trade Administration, will host *Doing Business in the Middle East and North Africa!* on Jan. 27, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mississippi World Trade Center, 175 East Capitol Street, Jackson, MS, 39201.

Co-sponsored by MDA, the Mississippi World Trade Center and the District Export Council, the event will feature international trade specialists who will discuss opportunities for trade and investment in the Middle East and North Africa. The seminar will provide attendees with an overview of the Middle Eastern and North African markets, market entry strategies, trade statistics and export trends. It will also provide information regarding the extension of credit to clients to help ensure success, the methods of shipping and the documents related to foreign trade in the Middle East and North Africa. At the conclusion of the seminar, speakers will be available by appointment for one-on-one counseling.

To learn more, please visit www.buyusa.gov/jackson, or register by contacting Carol Moore at (601) 965-4131, or Josh Bower at (601) 359-3792. Due to limited seating, interested parties are encouraged to register early.