

MDA E-News February 9, 2010**100 New Jobs Created in Fulton, Funding for Three State Improvement Projects, Fifty New Jobs Created at Parker Hannifin Facility, Webinar Scheduled for Applicants Interested in Round Two of the Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program, MDA to Host Webinar to Provide Information on Converting Fleet Vehicles to Propane and Natural Gas****In this issue:**

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Max Home Expanding Operations in Fulton, Creating 100 New Jobs

On Thursday, February 4, Max Home LLC, manufacturer of upholstered chairs, couches, loveseats and ottomans located in Fulton, Miss., announced an expansion of its operations to accommodate an increase in production. The company is investing over \$850,000 in equipment and building upgrades and is creating 100 new jobs at the facility, bringing the total number of Max Home employees in Fulton to 375. The company will continue operations in its current facilities in Fulton and Iuka, Miss., as well.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) provided Max Home with assistance through the Job Protection Grant Program and awarded a Development Infrastructure Program grant to the City of Fulton to assist with public building upgrades to help facilitate the expansion. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) also provided assistance for public building improvements.

MDA Awards Funding for Three Improvement Projects in the State

MDA's Community Service Division recently awarded approximately \$129,000 in **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** funding for three improvement projects located throughout the state. To receive CDBG

Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community.

The CDBG Emergency Public Facilities awards include:

- Town of DeKalb - \$20,960 for sewer improvements
- City of Pearl - \$47,063 for sewer improvements
- City of Rolling Fork - \$60,888 for sewer improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org and select the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

Fifty New Jobs Created at Batesville's Parker Hannifin Facility

Parker Hannifin, a leader in motion control technologies and systems, has expanded its Batesville, Miss., operations. The expansion accommodates additional production of refrigerant control and containment components for automotive, heavy-duty truck and off-road air conditioning applications. Fifty new jobs were created by the expansion, bringing the total number of Batesville facility employees to 195.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) worked closely with the company to help facilitate the expansion and provided Job Protection Grant Program funds and workforce training to assist with the project. Parker Hannifin also took advantage of MDA's Existing Manufacturers Job Rebate Program.

With annual sales exceeding \$10 billion in fiscal year 2009, Parker Hannifin is a leading diversified manufacturer of motion and control technologies and systems, providing precision-engineered solutions for a wide variety of mobile, industrial and aerospace markets. The company is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information, visit the company Web site at www.parker.com.

MDA Accepting Applications for Round Two of the Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program; Webinar Scheduled for Interested Applicants

Applications are now being accepted for the second round of the Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program. This program, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), provides grants to eligible Mississippi businesses for energy efficient retrofits and upgrades to their facilities with the goal that the resulting savings will make the companies more competitive and enable them to save and create jobs. Approximately \$5

million is available for Round Two of this program.

MDA encourages businesses of all sizes to apply. **A webinar is scheduled for February 16, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for those inquiring about this opportunity and the application process.**

Due to the high response to Round One, which resulted in 24 grant awards to a variety of businesses throughout the state, MDA anticipates a highly-competitive selection process for Round Two of the program. **Applications for Round Two are due by 3:00 p.m. CST on March 31, 2010.**

Since changes have been made to the program since Round One, interested applicants, including those who applied but not did receive funding in the first round, must read the revised Round Two Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and submit an application for Round Two. To access the FOA and application, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org and select *Funding Opportunities and Announcements* from the menu on the left.

To view additional information about this program or to learn how to register for the Webinar, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org.

MDA to Host Webinar to Provide Information on Converting Fleet Vehicles to Propane and Natural Gas

On **Thursday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m.**, MDA's Energy Division, on behalf of the Mississippi Clean Cities Coalition, will host a Webinar to provide information regarding retrofitting or converting fleet vehicles to propane and natural gas, both of which produce lower emissions than petroleum while helping to reduce dependence on foreign oil.

Mark Denton, vice president of business development for Blossman Gas and Bill Calvert, vice president of sales for BAF Technologies will speak at the event. Denton will discuss the options for converting vehicles to accept propane, the most accessible alternative fuel. Calvert will discuss the options for converting vehicles to accept natural gas and establishing natural gas fueling stations.

The information to be covered in this event will benefit anyone overseeing a fleet of vehicles, including fleet managers, county supervisors, school officials and others. To register for the event, please visit www.mississippi.org/webinars . MDA encourages its partners to share this information with their communities. For more information, please contact MDA's Energy Division at (601) 359-6600.

MDA is a member of the Mississippi Clean Cities Coalition, a

government/industry partnership created to help reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuels and vehicles, idle reduction technologies, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends and fuel economy measures.

CORRECTION: *In last week's E-News article regarding economic development accomplishments of 2009, we incorrectly reported that MDA helped furniture companies Lane, H.M. Richards and Bauhaus USA to obtain Free Trade Zone authority. MDA helped these companies to obtain FOREIGN TRADE ZONE authority. We apologize for the misstatement.*

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