

MDA E-News February 22, 2010

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Newly Weds Foods to Create 20 New Jobs in Horn Lake

Newly Weds Foods, a leading producer of food coatings, seasonings and ingredients for the food processing and foodservice industries, is investing \$1.25 million in new equipment and creating 20 new jobs at its Horn Lake, Miss., facility.

The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA's) Existing Industry and Business Division worked closely with company and local officials to assist with this expansion. The City of Horn Lake utilized MDA's Mississippi Freight Rail Revolving Loan Program and the Community Development Block Grant Program to help extend a rail spur to the facility, and the project also received funding through the Delta Regional Authority and the federal Economic Development Administration.

Headquartered in Chicago, Ill., Newly Weds Foods is the largest producer of customized food coatings in the U.S. The company operates 15 North American plants, as well as plants in China, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Holland and the Philippines. To learn more, please visit the company's Web site at www.newlywedsfoods.com.

MDA, MPTAP to Sponsor Free Procurement Development Workshop

The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA's) Minority and Small Business Development Division and the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP) will sponsor a Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop at Jones County Junior College (JCJC) on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010**. The workshop will be held at JCJC's

Advanced Technology Center in Howard Technology Park at 72
Technology Boulevard, Ellisville, Miss., **from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

The workshop will provide attendees with information on how to secure government contracts, how to take advantage of Mississippi Planning and Development District Finance Programs and Small Business Administration (SBA) 8a Programs, how to benefit from JCJC's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and how to do business with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The workshop will host four presenters, including Jonithan Hatcher from MPTAP, Crystal Nail from JCJC's SBDC, Alice Doss from SBA and Shirley Reed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop is free-of-charge, and interested persons can register before or at the event. Details are available online at www.msccpc.com; select the "Events" link from the left menu, then select "Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop" from the February 23 box. A registration link is available at the bottom of the information page. For more information, contact Joycie Lenoir with MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-3448 or jlenoir@mississippi.org.

MDA Kicks Off Model Contractor Development Program Workshops in Meridian

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will launch its Model Contractor Development Program (MCDP) workshop series on Thursday, February 25, 2010, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Union Station Building located at 1901 Front Street in Meridian, Miss.

The MCDP workshop series is designed to teach small contractors the business practices they need to improve their companies' operations and to increase their bonding capacity. The workshop is open to all small contractors, but participants must enroll their companies in the [Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program](#). Also, a representative from each company must agree to attend at least seven of the eight sessions.

Each session will be held on Thursday nights (with the exception of March 18) from February 25 to April 22; all sessions will be from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Union Station building in Meridian. The workshop is free-of-charge, but pre-registration is required. For a list of session topics and to register, visit www.msccpc.com, select "Events" and then select "Model Contractor Development Program - Meridian" from the February 25 box. Interested contractors may also contact MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-3448 or the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation at (601) 693-1306.

The workshop series is being sponsored by the East Mississippi Business

Development Corporation, the East Central Contract Procurement Center, Kemper County Economic Development Authority, the Meridian Housing Authority, The Surety and Fidelity Association of America and MDA.

Covington Named Director of MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division

Bob Covington has been named director of the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA's) Minority and Small Business Development Division (MSBDD). He has served MDA as the Business Development and Trade Manager for MSBDD for five years. As director of MSBDD, Covington will be responsible for the overall management of the division as well as the development and implementation of short- and long-range plans designed to assist minority- and women-owned businesses throughout Mississippi.

Since joining the MDA team in 2004, Covington has played an integral role in the development of numerous MSBDD programs, including the development of a business database network designed to simplify communication and provide improved access to businesses assisted by the MSBDD, the development of a Standard Operating Procedures manual for the division and the development and implementation of the Model Contractor Development Program (MCDP) in Mississippi. The MCDP is a series of workshops designed to teach minority and small construction contractors the business practices needed to improve company operations and increase bonding capacity. The workshops, which are held throughout the state, have graduated a total of 380 contractors since the program's inception.

Covington is certified by the National Development Council as an Economic Development Finance Professional, and he is a member of the Mississippi Economic Council and the Mississippi Economic Development Council.

MDA, The Ramey Agency Recognized at Jackson Advertising Federation's ADDY® Awards Ceremony

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and The Ramey Agency were recently honored with three ADDY® Awards at the Jackson Advertising Federation's annual awards ceremony in Jackson, Miss. According to the American Advertising Federation Web site, the ADDY® Awards "are the world's largest and arguably toughest advertising competition," and they "represent the spirit of creative excellence by recognizing all forms of advertising from media of all types, all sizes and entrants from every level." The winning entries for MDA and The Ramey Agency include:

- Team Mississippi Fishing Trip Invitation - Gold ADDY® in its class (MDA)
- Team Mississippi Blues Road Trip Invitation - Gold ADDY® in its class (MDA)

- Mississippi Development Authority Web site - Silver ADDY® in its class (The Ramey Agency)

The two Gold ADDY®- winning designs will advance to the regional ADDY® competition; winners of the regional competition will advance to the national ADDY® Awards.

To learn more about the Jackson Advertising Federation and the ADDY® Awards, please visit www.aafjackson.org. A downloadable "winners book" is available on the Web site to view a complete list of 2010 winners.

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