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**Wilh. Schulz GMBH Breaks Ground on \$300 Million Pipe Manufacturing Facility in the Mississippi Delta**

Governor Haley Barbour, officials from Wilh. Schulz GMBH and local officials gathered recently for a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of Schulz's new pipe manufacturing facility in Tunica County, Miss. The company announced it had selected Tunica County as the site for its first North American pipe manufacturing facility in January of this year. Five hundred jobs will be created at the Tunica County plant over the next five years. The facility will be 450,000 square feet, when complete, and represents a \$300 million company investment.

The company's Mississippi division will be known as Schulz Xtruded Products, or SXP, and will produce seamless extruded metallurgical bonded pipe utilizing a breakthrough extrusion process for the oil and gas industries.

Schulz has already received orders for the clad pipes to be manufactured at the Tunica plant, and as a result, company officials are moving forward quickly with plans to construct and equip the facility. Construction will begin by May 1, 2010, and the company plans to start production at the new facility by the end of this year.

Schulz is headquartered in Krefeld, Germany. Founded in 1945, the company is a global supplier of piping components for facilities in the nuclear power, oil and gas, fossil fuel power plant, water treatment and

chemical industries. For more information about the company, please visit Schulz's Web site at [www.wschulz.com/english/index.php](http://www.wschulz.com/english/index.php).

### **March 16 Stimulus Funding Opportunities Conference for Minority Contractors Provides Overview of Stimulus Programs and Requirements**

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will host a conference for Mississippi-based certified minority contractors to provide information on contracting opportunities associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The conference will be held **Tuesday, March 16** at the River Room Conference Center located at 100 Ridge Drive in Flowood, Miss., from **8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The conference will offer attendees an overview of MDA stimulus programs and requirements; an overview of MDA minority outreach programs, including the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program; tips on doing business with the State of Mississippi; a panel discussion on residential housing opportunities; a panel discussion on energy opportunities and a vendor fair to give attendees the opportunity to network with other contractors, vendors and MDA grantees. The conference will conclude with an hour-long question and answer session.

The conference is free of charge, and interested persons should register before the event. Details are available online at [www.msccpc.com](http://www.msccpc.com) ; select the "Events" link from the left menu, then select the stimulus funding opportunities conference from the March 16 box. A registration link is available at the bottom of the information page. For more information, please call MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-6678.

### **"Get Your 'Ducts' in a Row!" Home Planning Seminar Set for March 22, March 29 and April 5**

The "Get Your 'Ducts' in a Row!" energy efficiency home planning seminar will be held **March 22, March 29 and April 5** for homeowners, those looking to buy or remodel, home inspectors, realtors and appraisers. The three sessions will be held at the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi Meeting Room located at 665 Highland Colony Parkway in Ridgeland, Miss. The Monday-night workshops will provide information on energy-efficient home building and remodeling and will be held from **6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Sessions will cover the following topics:

- Monday, March 22
  - *Energy-efficient mortgages and home plans*
  - *ENERGY STAR certification*

- Monday, March 29
  - *High-efficiency heating, air conditioning and lighting*
  - *Specifications for choosing contractors and materials*
- Monday, April 5
  - *High-efficiency home insulation (including caulking, air sealing, framing, doors, windows)*
  - *How to test homes for energy efficiency*

Registration cost is \$35 for each family (up to 2 people), which includes an "Energy Efficient Reference Manual." Continuing Education Units are available for home inspectors, realtors and appraisers. Space is limited, and pre-registration is encouraged. To register or to find out more, please call (601) 898-0888.

The 2010 "Get Your 'Ducts' in a Row!" home planning seminar is presented by the AC Doctors, the Central Mississippi Electric Power Association, Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, Dickens & Associates, Energy Insulation, HERSCO / TAGMA, the Mississippi Development Authority's Energy Division and the Mississippi State Extension Service.

**Film Studio to Locate in Canton to Support Mississippi's Film Industry: Will Create up to 30 Permanent Jobs**

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau recently announced that a new film studio, The Mississippi Film Studios @ Canton, will be located in Canton, Miss. It will be the first purpose-built studio in the state dedicated to the attraction and support of film and television production. The film studio will create at least 25 to 30 permanent jobs and could employ up to 150 to 250 part-time and full-time workers when film production is underway.

The new facility will complement the Mississippi Motion Picture Incentive Program (MMPIP) in developing the Mississippi film industry; the MMPIP is administered by MDA's Tourism Division to encourage motion picture production in the state.

The Mississippi Film Studio @ Canton will include a 36,000-square-foot sound stage clear span with a ceiling height of 45 feet at its peak and 3,000 square feet of production office space. The stage and offices sit on a 5.8-acre site adjacent to an additional 25 acres of proposed expansion land. Renovations to the stage and offices are expected to be completed in mid-May. MDA, the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Canton and the Madison County Economic Development Authority worked together to bring this project to fruition.

The production facility will be managed by Los Angeles-based consultant group RoadTown Enterprises Ltd., whose principles have over 30 years of

experience in studio design, construction, management and marketing.

**Hotel Reservation Deadline Approaching for SEUS-CP Conference**

The 2010 Southeastern United States - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance Conference, which will be held April 11-13 in Biloxi, Miss., is fast approaching! Any Mississippi business owner interested in doing business with other southeastern states and/or with Canadian provinces should make plans to attend. Online registration is available on the [SEUS-CP Alliance Web site](#).

The Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino will be the host site of the SEUS-CP Conference; attendees must reserve their own hotel accommodations. A block of rooms will be held at the Beau Rivage for SEUS-CP attendees only until **Wednesday, March 17**, so please reserve your accommodations prior to this date to ensure availability. Reservation information is available on the [hotel accommodations Web page](#) of the Alliance site. For more information about SEUS-CP, visit [www.seuscp.org](http://www.seuscp.org).

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