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2009 Governor's Community Projects of Excellence Awards, Alternative Energy Infrastructure, Camgian Microsystems, MDA Webinar Update, EcoSteel Recycling and Ayrshire Electronics Honored

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Governor Haley Barbour, MDA Present 2009 Governor's Community Projects of Excellence Awards

The 2009 Governor's Community Projects of Excellence Awards were presented last week to ten communities throughout the state during a ceremony at the Woolfolk Building in downtown Jackson. Governor Haley Barbour kicked off the event, welcoming and congratulating this year's award recipients. MDA executive director Gray Swoope presented the awards to community leaders and representatives from non-profit organizations for their outstanding use of funds provided for community improvement projects; the funds are distributed through MDA's Community Services Division. This year's winners include:

- Town of Walnut - Best Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Economic Development
- City of Marks - Best CDBG Public Facility
- Town of Roxie - Best CDBG Self-Help
- Clay County - Best Capital Improvement Revolving Loan (CAP)
- Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence - Best Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)
- Neshoba County - Best Rural Impact Fund (RIF)
- Woodland Community Housing and Development Center - Best HOME Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)
- Attala County - Best HOME Homebuyer Assistance
- Marion County - Best HOME Homeowner Rehabilitation
- City of Raymond - Best Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties (SMLPC)

To be considered for an award, the projects must be completed on time, within their original budgets and have a positive impact on the community. To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division and to see photos of this year's event, please [click here](#).

MDA Energy Division Seeks Partnership in Latest Department of Energy Plan to Develop Alternative Energy Infrastructure along I-20

MDA's Energy Division represents Mississippi in a six-state joint effort to develop the alternative fuel infrastructure along the I-20 corridor, which spans from South Carolina to Texas. The division is seeking retail station partners in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) latest plan to fund a percentage of the cost of replacing regular petroleum pumps with biofuel pumps or purchasing new biofuel pumps.

Station owners must demonstrate their willingness to invest time, marketing and finances in alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, E85 and B20 blends.

Consideration will only be given to site areas located within two miles of I-20 from Toomsburg to Vicksburg. MDA encourages its partners to share this information with local retail stations in the designated area. To strengthen the potential success of the proposal, retail station owners are encouraged to submit letters-of-interest to demonstrate the level of partnership commitment to this project. Letters of interest must be submitted to MDA's Energy Division no later than March 23 and may be mailed to: MDA Energy Division, P.O. Box 849, Jackson, MS, 39205.

This proposal is in response to DOE's latest funding opportunity titled, "Clean Cities FY09 Petroleum Reduction Technologies Projects for the Transportation Sector," available in full detail [here](#). For more information or assistance, please contact Angelica Rawls with the Energy Division at (601) 359-6600 or by e-mail at arawls@mississippi.org.

Camgian Microsystems Awarded Small Business Innovation Research Project by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Camgian Microsystems Corporation, headquartered in Starkville, recently announced it has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 1 project by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The project will push the limits of technology and will seek to demonstrate the ability to provide revolutionary integration levels by combining high-performance RF circuits with large quantities of complex digital logic on a low-cost, small geometry silicon CMOS process.

Camgian designs and develops ultra-low power integrated microsystems that support long-battery life mobile sensing and communications applications. In February, the company acquired Cypress Semiconductor's Starkville design center, retaining 15 of Cypress' 22 high-wage employees. MDA provided \$100,000 for public building improvements for the project.

To learn more about Camgian Microsystems, please visit www.camgian.com.

Update: MDA Webinar for Small to Mid-Sized Businesses Rescheduled for Friday, March 27

Due to increased demand, MDA's Webinar for small to mid-sized businesses, originally scheduled for March 17, has been rescheduled for Friday, March 27, at 10

The Webinar, titled "Positioning Mississippi Businesses to be Prepared for Opportunities Ahead," will highlight business strategies MDA has in place to help the state's small to mid-sized businesses handle the current softened economy while helping them prepare for competitive business opportunities in the future. MDA's Minority and Small Business Development (MSBDD) and Existing Industry and Business (EIB) Divisions will both be key components of the Webinar.

Following an introduction by MDA executive director Gray Swoope and deputy director Whit Hughes, former MSBDD Director Richard Speights will present an overview of the challenges small businesses in Mississippi are facing and the programs the division offers to help combat those challenges. Chandler Russ, EIB Division Director, will also present alternatives available through EIB that assist small businesses and entrepreneurs in implementing their business ideas.

"In today's challenging economic times, all of us should be doing everything we can to survive," said Swoope.

This will be the first of periodic Webinars hosted by MDA. To learn more, please visit www.mississippi.org, or register for the event by sending an e-mail to MDAwebinars@mississippi.org.

EcoSteel Recycling, Ayrshire Electronics Honored in March/April Issue of *Trade and Industry Development Magazine*

EcoSteel Recycling in Amory, Miss., has been awarded a 2009 Corporate Investment and Community Impact (CiCi) Award by *Trade and Industry Development* magazine. The company is being honored in the Community Impact portion of the awards for its economic impact in Amory, and it is featured in the March/April issue of the magazine.

EcoSteel is currently constructing an approximately \$200 million, 100,000 square foot steel mill on 80 acres in Amory. The facility, which will be capable of producing long steel rebar product, will create at least 100 full-time jobs with a competitive pay scale and an estimated 75 indirect jobs with yearly pay averaging from \$35,000 to \$40,000.

MDA, ARC, TVA's low cost of power, Amory city officials and Monroe County Supervisors all played a key role in the company's decision to locate in Amory. MDA provided \$850,000 in CDBG funds and \$150,000 in Rural Impact Funds for site preparation for the project, as well as \$100,000 in ACE funds. The ARC also provided \$225,000 and the local governments contributed \$5 million for the project.

Ayrshire Electronics is also being honored in the Community Impact portion of the magazine's CiCi Awards. In October 2008, Ayrshire acquired the assets of ACT Electronics' Corinth, Miss., operation after the company had announced plans to close its facility. As a result of the acquisition, Ayrshire was able to retain more than 200 of ACT's employees.

MDA provided \$650,000 in funding through the Development Infrastructure Program to assist Ayrshire with infrastructure improvements.

For more information and to view a complete listing of this year's winners, please visit www.tradeandindustry.com.

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