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Southern Motion Announces Expansion of Operations in Pontotoc; Project to Create at Least 200 Jobs

Officials from Southern Motion, a reclining furniture manufacturer, have announced the company is expanding its operations to accommodate an increase in production and will construct a new 180,000-square-foot facility adjacent to its current operation in Pontotoc, Miss. The expansion represents a company investment of \$7 million and will create a minimum of 200 new jobs over the next two years with the potential to create a total of 400 new jobs over the next five years. Southern Motion currently employs 701 workers with facilities covering 400,000 square feet.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) worked closely with Southern Motion and local officials to help facilitate the expansion. The agency provided assistance to the county through the Development Infrastructure Program and the Rural Impact Fund Program to help with public infrastructure improvements.

In early 2010, Southern Motion officials announced an expansion which added 70 new jobs and new manufacturing lines at the Pontotoc facility. MDA certified the company for the 70 jobs through the Existing Manufacturers Job Rebate Program. Previously, in early 2009, the company underwent an expansion which added 65 new jobs, new lines and new equipment. For that expansion, MDA provided workforce training

assistance and guidance regarding state tax incentives available to the company.

Founded in 1996 in Pontotoc, Southern Motion manufactures motion furniture including recliners, sofas and loveseats, sectionals and home theater furniture. To learn more, please visit www.southernmotion.com.

Fiskars to Locate Distribution Operations in Southaven, Miss., Creating 100 New Jobs

Officials from Fiskars, a leading global supplier of consumer products for the home, garden and outdoors, have announced the company is combining warehouse and distribution operations for its Garden and School/Office/Craft divisions into an existing 260,000-square-foot facility at the Southaven Distribution Center in Southaven, Miss. The project will create 100 new jobs in the area.

Operations at Fiskars' new Southaven facility will be primarily distribution-related but will include some light assembly. The company will occupy the facility in September 2010 and will fully transition operations at its existing locations in Sauk City and Wausau, Wis., to Southaven by June 2011.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) worked closely with company representatives and local officials on this project and provided assistance through the Jobs Tax Credit program.

Founded in 1649 in Finland, Fiskars is Finland's oldest company. Fiskars' products are renowned for their functionality and cutting-edge design, and the Fiskars Group has a strong portfolio of trusted international brands, including Fiskars, Iittala, Gerber, Silva and Busters. In 1967, Fiskars manufactured the world's first plastic-handled scissors, and today, the company's orange-handled scissors are one of its most widely-recognized products.

For more information, please visit www.fiskarsgroup.com.

Guardian Fiberglass Announces Expansion of Operations, 30 New Jobs in Olive Branch

Officials from Guardian Fiberglass, Inc., recently announced the company is expanding operations at its facility in Olive Branch, Miss., to accommodate an increase in production. The project represents a \$9.5 million company investment and will create 30 new jobs at the facility, which produces white and yellow loosefill and batt fiberglass insulation for the residential and commercial construction industries.

The State of Mississippi provided Momentum Mississippi incentives to help facilitate the expansion. Additionally, the Tennessee Valley Authority

(TVA) provided assistance through its Valley Initiative Program.

Guardian Fiberglass, Inc., is part of Guardian Building Products, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Guardian Industries Corp., headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan. In North America, Guardian Fiberglass is the fourth largest producer of light density fiberglass insulation for the residential and commercial construction industry.

Guardian Industries, which has been in operation for over 75 years, is a diversified global manufacturing company that produces float glass, fabricated glass products, fiberglass insulation and other materials for commercial, residential and automotive markets. Guardian Industries, its subsidiaries and affiliates employ over 18,000 people and operate facilities throughout North America, Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East and have a manufacturing presence in 25 countries. For more information on Guardian Industries or Guardian Building Products, visit www.guardian.com.

MDA Awards over \$3.6 Million for Nine Improvement Projects around the State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program (CAP)**, **CDBG Community Self-Help**, **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** and **Development Infrastructure Program (DIP)** funds for **nine** improvement projects throughout the state. The **CAP Loan Program** provides loans in order to finance capital improvements. **CDBG Community Self-Help** funds are designed to address local community needs such as water, wastewater, downtown improvements and recreation. In order 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. **DIP** provides grants to Mississippi counties or municipalities to finance small infrastructure projects in order to promote economic development. The awards, which total more than \$3.6 million, include:

- **CAP Loan Program**
 - City of Clinton - \$1,000,000 for infrastructure improvements
 - City of Greenwood - \$600,000 for infrastructure improvements
 - City of Southaven - \$531,753 to purchase a fire truck
- **CDBG Community Self-Help**
 - City of Booneville - \$100,000 to renovate Sunflower Community Park
 - Town of Blue Mountain - \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements

- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - City of Marks - \$94,161.90 for infrastructure improvements
 - City of Newton - \$22,724 for infrastructure improvements
- **DIP**
 - City of Pearl (Valley Food Services, Inc.) - \$200,000 for a traffic signal
 - City of Senatobia (Twin Creeks Technologies, Inc.) - \$1,000,000 for infrastructure improvements

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

Governor Barbour Announces Mississippi Disaster Recovery Fund to Assist Mississippians Affected by April 24 Tornadoes and Recent North Mississippi Storms

In response to the April 24 tornadoes and recent storms that devastated many of Mississippi's communities and residents, many Mississippians, as well as people and businesses from all over the country, have expressed a desire in helping storm victims recover. As a result, Governor Haley Barbour has announced the creation of the Mississippi Disaster Recovery Fund, Inc., a non-profit that coordinates donations to assist residents recovering from the storms. According to Governor Barbour, the goal of the fund is to help meet the needs of Mississippi communities that cannot be met by the government. The Mississippi Disaster Recovery Fund is managed by a board of members from the storm-affected areas. The board will determine the distribution of funds to address unmet recovery needs.

Already, two companies with operations in the state have stepped in to assist in the recovery of the storm-affected areas. Abitibi Bowater, which operates a newsprint facility in Grenada, has made a generous, in-kind donation of lumber to assist with disaster relief efforts, and ICE Industries, parent company of Grenada Stamping and Assembly, also in Grenada, has pledged a sizeable monetary donation for disaster relief.

Other businesses and individuals interested in making a monetary donation to assist with relief efforts may do so by visiting www.mississippirelief.com or by sending a check to Mississippi Disaster Recovery Fund, c/o Bank Plus, 4450 Old Canton Road, Ste. 101, Jackson, MS, 39211. For those interested in donating their time to relief efforts, the website also provides information regarding volunteer opportunities through the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services.

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