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**MDA Awards CDBG Economic Development Funding to City of Tupelo for Hunter Douglas Expansion**

MDA recently awarded CDBG Economic Development (ED) funding in the amount of \$500,000 to the City of Tupelo on behalf of Hunter Douglas. The funds will be used for water/fire protection to help facilitate the company's expansion in Shannon. The expansion is expected to create 25 new jobs.

CDBG ED funds are designed to help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for the residents. To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA, please visit [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org), and click the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

**Mississippi Enterprise for Technology, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries Enter into Partnership Following SEUS-CP Conference**

The Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MsET) has announced a new partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries (NATI), a Canadian private non-profit corporation that advocates on behalf of the advanced technology community. MsET

and NATI will collaborate to develop initiatives to support the advanced technology sector in Mississippi and Canada. The partnership grew out of the recent Southeastern United States - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance Annual Conference held last month in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Paul Dube' of NATI (L) and Charlie Beasley of MSET (R) finalize a collaborative agreement between the two organizations.

In addition to encouraging innovation in their respective areas, the partnership will promote commerce and collaboration between businesses and other entities in the two regions. MSET and NATI also hope it will help raise awareness regarding the importance of the advanced technology sector in growing and sustaining a knowledge-based economy. The partnership will contribute towards generating continued economic growth and business opportunities between the two regions.

MDA deputy director Whit Hughes said that the partnership between Mset and NATI speaks to the real value of participation in the SEUS-CP Alliance. The collaboration between the two organizations will raise the profile of Mississippi's advanced technology sector and will help create lasting business ties between Mississippi and Newfoundland and Labrador.

To learn more about MSET, please visit [www.mset.org](http://www.mset.org).

**MDA Holds Webinar to Inform Participants about Economic Development Administration Programs; Presentation Available for Online Viewing**

On Tuesday, August 4, MDA presented "Tapping into the Programs of the

U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)," a Webinar featuring guest presenter Tonia Williams, EDA's representative for Mississippi. EDA targets investment assistance in order to attract private capital investments and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in communities and regions suffering from economic distress.



Tonia Williams, the U.S. Economic Development Administration's representative for Mississippi, conducts a Webinar for economic developers from around the state.

During the Webinar, Williams shared valuable information designed to help economic developers and community leaders learn more about the programs and funds available through EDA, including the federal funding opportunities available to help Mississippi's communities remain competitive. Program eligibility requirements and EDA's evaluation criteria were also included in the presentation.

Anyone interested in viewing and listening to a recording of the event, including Williams' PowerPoint presentation, may do so by visiting [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org) and selecting the Webinars and Programs button located near the bottom right side of the page.

### **2009 Mississippi Market Post-Show Statistics Reflect Increase in Sales, Attendance**

This year's Mississippi Market Wholesale Show, which was held June 4-5, experienced a significant increase in sales as compared to the 2008 show. Total sales for 2009 were \$590,701 - an increase of more than \$112,000. The show also welcomed 113 exhibitors representing 139 booths; forty percent of this year's exhibitors were newcomers to the market.

Additionally, 813 credentialed buyers representing 429 stores were in attendance. Of these, 97 percent indicated they would return for the 2010 Mississippi Market, which is scheduled for June 3-4 at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson.

According to Chandler Russ, MDA's Existing Industry and Business Division (EIB) director, the numbers from this year's show surpassed many previous milestones, particularly the sales and orders, which saw more than a 20 percent increase from the 2007 and 2008 shows. He also stated that this year's market was a testament to the strength of the exhibitors as well as to the foresight of the buyers who appreciated the products being offered. Russ cited changes and improvements implemented by the EIB staff as reasons for the success of the 2009 show.

Mississippi Market was created in 1996 by the EIB Division to assist small Mississippi business owners and artists in marketing their products to credentialed retail buyers from around the region, in turn generating sales for participating vendors. For more information and to view photos from the 2009 show, please visit [www.mississippimarket.org](http://www.mississippimarket.org).

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