

**MDA E-News October 5, 2009****Vicksburg Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, MDA to Host Webinar on October 13, Energy Awareness Month in Full Swing, Mississippi Business Development Mission to Chile and Peru****In this issue:**

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**Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Held in Vicksburg for Vicksmetal Company**

Steel Summit Holdings, Inc. celebrated the grand opening of its new division, Vicksmetal Company (VMC), at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Vicksburg last week. VMC occupies a 26,500-square-foot facility at the Port of Vicksburg where the company produces transformer cores for manufacturers of electrical transformers and voltage regulators. Currently, VMC employs 10 workers on one shift. Over the next year, the company plans to add 15 additional employees, two more shifts and more equipment at its facility. To date, the project represents an approximately \$4 million investment by Steel Summit Holdings. MDA provided the company with job training assistance.

VMC President Mike Inoue stated that although Steel Summit Holdings' Vicksmetal Armco Associates facility, also located at the Port of Vicksburg, has supplied the transformer industry with slit electrical steel for 25 years, the new company provides even greater opportunities to serve transformer manufacturers in the Southeast.

Steel Summit Holdings is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. To learn more, please visit [www.steelsummit.com](http://www.steelsummit.com).

**MDA to Host Energy-Related Stimulus Opportunities Webinar on October 13**

On Tuesday, October 13, at 10 a.m., MDA will host a Webinar focusing on the energy-related stimulus programs available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). MDA Energy Division Director Motice Bruce and Stimulus Director Manning McPhillips will provide an overview of the following programs, as well as ways in which the funds can benefit Webinar participants:

- **State Energy Plan (SEP)**
  - Lead by Example - Energy Efficiency in Public Facilities

- Smart Metering
- Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development
- Renewable Energy Technology Deployment
- Performance Contracting
- Energy Audits
- Workforce Development
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Programs**
  - Energy Audits
  - Energy Efficient Retrofits
  - Energy Efficient Traffic Signals and Street Lighting
  - Recycling Programs
- **ENERGY STAR® Rebate Program**
- **Energy Assurance and Smart Grid Resiliency**

This event will benefit a diverse audience, ranging from city officials to utilities to the general public, so MDA urges its partners to share this information with colleagues and in any upcoming newsletters or other forms of communication. For more information about the programs to be discussed during the Webinar, please visit [stimulus.mississippi.org](http://stimulus.mississippi.org). To register for this event, please [click here](#).

### **Energy Awareness Month in Full Swing; MDA Sponsoring Numerous Activities throughout Mississippi**

On October 1, Governor Haley Barbour proclaimed October as Energy Awareness Month, and MDA's Energy Division, along with energy partners from around the state, is sponsoring a variety of events designed to promote energy efficiency and raise energy awareness throughout the state. This year's theme is "A Sustainable Energy Future: Putting All the Pieces Together," and the schedule of upcoming events is:

- **October 7** - ENERGY STAR® Day - MDA encourages its partners to log on to [www.energystar.gov/changealight](http://www.energystar.gov/changealight) to take the ENERGY STAR® Pledge. Be sure to choose MDA as the referring agency.
- **October 20** - Stennis Space Center Energy Awareness Day - MDA will continue promoting its "Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR®" campaign during this event at Stennis Space Center, home to thousands of employees of numerous federal agencies, companies and research organizations.
- **October 23** - *Performance Contracting 101 - Energy Efficiencies via a Budget-Neutral Approach* - MSU CAVS Extension in Canton, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Join MDA and other community stakeholders to explore the best practices to fund energy efficiencies with a budget-neutral approach. The cost is \$40 per person and \$400 per exhibit booth.
- **October 28** - *Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi* - Vicksburg Convention Center, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event will teach methods to help your building or facility save energy and money. The cost is \$40 per person.

For more information or to register for any of these events, please contact MDA's Energy Division at (601) 359-6600. MDA invites you to share these dates with your colleagues and peers in your community.

**MDA's Hughes, Mississippi Business Leaders Participate in Business Development Mission to Chile and Peru**

MDA Deputy Director Whit Hughes recently led a Mississippi delegation on a business development mission to Chile and Peru to provide opportunities for Mississippi businesses to expand trade and pursue opportunities in the two markets. Through MDA's solid contacts in Santiago and Lima, participants were able to meet one-on-one with pre-qualified buyers, agents and distributors for their products and services. MDA also arranged market briefings with other business and government representatives so mission participants could better understand the full scope of business opportunities in the region.

During the business development mission, Hughes participated in a panel discussion as part of the International Trade Association's Americas Competitiveness Forum, which brings together representatives from the public and private sectors to discuss ways to spark innovation, create jobs and expand trade among the countries of the Western Hemisphere. During a session entitled "Competitive Infrastructure for International Trade," Hughes provided information concerning Mississippi's business infrastructure network with specific emphasis on deepwater ports in Gulfport and Pascagoula. Other panel presenters included representatives from the Panama Canal Authority and the Puerto de Santos in Brazil.

For more information about business development missions to Latin America, please contact Rose Boxx, MDA's Latin American trade specialist, at (601) 359-3155, or e-mail [rboxx@mississippi.org](mailto:rboxx@mississippi.org) . To learn more about MDA's international marketing services and events or to request a consultation with an international trade specialist, please visit [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).

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