

MDA E-News October 12, 2009**MDA's Energy-Related Stimulus Opportunities Webinar Tomorrow, Funding for Three Improvement Projects, Exterior Profiles Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Swoope Meets with Indian Ambassador, "Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi" Workshop October 28****In this Issue:**

- [MDA's Energy-Related Stimulus Opportunities Webinar Tomorrow, October 13, at 10 a.m.](#)
- [MDA Awards Funding for Three Improvement Projects in the State](#)
- [Exterior Profiles Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Held at Former Outdoor Technologies, Inc. Facility in Macon](#)
- [Swoope Meets with Indian Ambassador Singh to Discuss Mississippi/Indian Opportunities](#)
- [MDA Energy Division to Host "Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi" Workshop October 28 in Vicksburg](#)

MDA's Energy-Related Stimulus Opportunities Webinar Tomorrow, October 13, at 10 a.m.

Be sure to join MDA tomorrow, October 13, at 10 a.m., for an informative Webinar that will cover the energy-related stimulus funding opportunities available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). MDA Energy Division Director Motice Bruce and Stimulus Director Manning McPhillips will discuss the following programs, including the ways each can benefit Webinar participants:

- **State Energy Plan (SEP)**, which includes: Lead by Example - Energy Efficiency in Public Facilities, Smart Metering, Mississippi Job Protection through Economic Development, Energy Audits and Market Transformation and Technology Deployment
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program**, which includes: Renewable Energy Projects, Building Codes, Transportation, Performance Contracting and Workforce Training
- **Energy Assurance and Smart Grid Resiliency Planning**
- **Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program**

The information to be included in this event will benefit a very broad

audience, from county administrators to business owners to homeowners. A Q&A session will conclude the presentation should participants have questions during the Webinar. There is no cost to participate, but participants must register. To register, please [click here](#). To learn more about the programs listed above, or to find out how they can benefit your community, business or household, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org. We hope to "see" you there!

MDA Awards Funding for Three Improvement Projects in the State

MDA recently awarded **Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program (CAP)** and **Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties (SMLPC)** funding for three improvement projects in the state. The **CAP Program** provides loans in order to finance capital improvements, and the **SMLPC Grant Program** provides funding for community-based projects and can only be used by small municipalities and counties to assist with public facilities and infrastructure needs. The awards, which total approximately \$1.9 million, include:

- **CAP**
 - Lamar County - \$1,000,000 for fire improvements
 - Madison County - \$775,000 for fire improvements
- **SMLPC**
 - City of Ruleville - \$138,146 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.

Exterior Profiles Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Held at Former Outdoor Technologies, Inc. Facility in Macon

Loren "Digger" Graber, president of Digger Specialties, celebrated the opening of Exterior Profiles with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the former Outdoor Technologies, Inc. (OTI) facility in Macon last week. Graber acquired the assets of OTI from Ohio-based ProVia Door earlier this year and has since added seven new jobs at the facility, bringing the total to 31.

In October 2008, Jancor Companies, owner of OTI and two other Mississippi operations, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, resulting in the loss of approximately 400 jobs at the three facilities. In early 2009, ProVia Door purchased the facilities, reopening the Booneville and Macon plants and rehiring many of their employees. In April, Graber purchased assets from ProVia Door and renamed OTI as Exterior Profiles Corporation. MDA Project Manager Harry Gibbs worked with ProVia Door

and Graber, along with local economic developers, to facilitate the acquisition.

Exterior Profiles will focus on extruding the Heritage brand of vinyl fence, deck and rail products, as well as providing a private label for the fabrication market. For more information about the company, please visit www.extprofiles.org.

Swoope Meets with Indian Ambassador Singh to Discuss Mississippi/Indian Opportunities

MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope recently met with Ambassador Arun K. Singh, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., to discuss Mississippi's growing trade relationship with India and industries Mississippi is targeting for the future. Singh was in the Jackson area to serve as a guest speaker during the Executive Lecture Forum, where he spoke on the topic "India and the U.S.: A Partnership for the 21st Century." According to Swoope, the meeting afforded him the opportunity to share with Singh some of what Mississippi has to offer Indian businesses while expressing his hope that both areas will continue to build meaningful and beneficial relationships in the years to come.

Mississippi's ties with India have grown much stronger in recent years. Current Indian companies operating in the state include Mumbai, India-based PSL-Limited, which has a pipe manufacturing and coating facility in Hancock County, and New Delhi-based Clutch Auto Limited, India's lead clutch manufacturer and exporter, which located its U.S. operations in Meridian. Additionally, India's demand for Mississippi's manufactured goods has grown significantly; between 2007 and 2008, Mississippi exports to India increased over 600 percent, making India the state's seventh largest export partner. The exports included bulk items such as fertilizers, pigments and cotton, which account for the most dramatic increases. Trade in automotive parts and drilling equipment parts also contributed substantially to the increase.

To learn more about trade opportunities with India or other countries, please contact MDA's Trade Bureau at (601) 359-3155, or e-mail trade@mississippi.org.

MDA Energy Division to Host "Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi" Workshop October 28 in Vicksburg

On Wednesday, October 28, at the Vicksburg Convention Center, MDA's Energy Division will be hosting "Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi," a workshop designed to provide valuable information regarding the ways buildings and facilities can save energy and money by using renewable energy sources. The workshop will feature guest speakers covering a variety of topics, including geothermal applications, funding and installations for geothermal, solar energy and alternative fuels for

vehicles. It will also address cost-saving issues and ways to reduce energy costs through the use and implementation of these applications.

The workshop will benefit schools, colleges and universities, energy and facility managers, fleet managers, commercial and industrial business owners and local citizens interested in learning more about renewable energy. The cost to attend is \$40 per person. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the workshop will adjourn at 3 p.m. The registration fee includes lunch and snacks.

To view a brochure of the event, or to print the registration form, please [click here](#).

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