

MDA E-News Briefs for the Week of November 10, 2008

Windsor Foods Opens its Doors in Winston County

Sometimes, through no fault of their own, companies are faced with public relations challenges which are legacies from a previous organization. Such has been the challenge for Windsor Foods.

Much negative attention was focused on the Oakland, Miss., facility known as "the beef plant" during recent election campaigns. In January, Windsor Foods, a leading manufacturer and marketer of frozen ethnic foods and appetizers, acquired the facility. On October 28, the company celebrated its opening with a "meet and greet" and tour of their new manufacturing plant. Windsor Foods' acquisition of the facility is a \$23 million investment; the company renovated the facility by adding an additional 10,000 square feet bringing the total to 150,000 square feet.

The company, which has nine other locations, chose the Oakland plant because it was built to USDA standards and because of its prime location for distribution and the available workforce; the company received approximately 1,100 applications from prospective employees for its first available jobs. From this facility, the company will run two lines of Mexican snack foods in grocery stores and in the food service industry.

This is a very positive move for Oakland, Yalobusha County and the state of Mississippi. MDA is urging our economic development partners to support this fine company and to kindly correct anyone that refers to the facility as "the beef plant."

To learn more about Windsor Foods, please visit their website at www.windsorfoods.com

MDA Presents 2008 State Energy Management Awards for Reduced Energy Consumption

MDA's Energy Division works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy to provide programs which encourage reduced energy consumption. Each year, businesses and organizations that have made substantial strides towards energy efficiency are recognized for their achievements.

MDA's Energy Division recently presented ten Mississippi businesses and organizations with the 2008 State Energy Management Awards for

successfully reducing their energy consumption by 10-20 percent. Award recipients include:

- ***Davis International** – *Energy Management*
- **Delta State University** – *Energy Efficiency and Management*
- **DeSoto County School District** – *Energy Efficiency and Management*
- **ECS** – *Energy Efficiency and Management*
- **Grenada Manufacturing** – *Energy Efficiency and Management*
- **Jackson State University, Dept. of Facilities and Construction Management** – *Innovative and New Technology*
- **Mississippi Army National Guard, Dept. of Public Works, Camp Shelby** – *Energy Efficiency and Management*
- ***Nissan North America, Canton Plant** – *Energy Efficiency and Management*
- ***Tronox-Hamilton Pigment** – *Energy Management.*

The Department of Finance and Administration was also recognized for their efforts at the Woolfolk Building, home to MDA's Jackson offices, for energy management programs which saved the state \$70,000 in annual energy costs.

To learn more about programs available to help reduce energy consumption, please contact MDA's Energy Division at (601) 359-6600.

**These companies also received the U.S. Dept. of Energy award for the "Save Energy Now Program for Industries."*

Pepsi South Constructing Bottling Facility in Hattiesburg

The Area Development Partnership, Brown Bottling Group and Wis-Pak recently announced plans for Pepsi South, a new \$49 million bottling facility in Hattiesburg. The 235,804 square foot facility is currently under construction in Forrest County Industrial Park. Pepsi South is expected to begin production towards the end of 2009. The facility will bottle and provide Pepsi products to the Southern region of the United States. The new state of the art facility will be instrumental in the regional development of the beverage industry, being centrally located to bottlers and their customers. Also, the pool of available and qualified labor is another reason why this facility is located in South Mississippi. MDA provided \$2 million for a wastewater treatment facility for the project.

Ribbon Cuttings Held for Expansions on Two Existing Industries: AL&S Pharmaceutical and Pharma Pac, LLC

AL&S Pharmaceutical recently held a ribbon cutting for its new manufacturing facility in DeKalb. The company, which is associated with Pharma Pac, LLC and Pro Derma, LLC, will produce two new products for the pharmaceutical industry at its new facility. MDA provided \$150,000 in

Rural Impact Funds toward the project, and the Appalachian Regional Commission provided \$120,000. The project consisted of remodeling a 3,500 square foot building and adding an additional 4,750 square feet. This \$600,000 investment will create 20 additional new jobs for DeKalb and Kemper County.

Pharma Pac, LLC, also recently held a ribbon cutting for the expansion of its facility located in DeKalb's John C. Stennis Industrial Park. The State of Mississippi, through MDA, provided Kemper County \$500,000 in impact bonds issued by the legislature to purchase and expand the building and make infrastructure improvements. This \$500,000 capital investment is creating approximately 25 new jobs toward the company's commitment of 90 new jobs. Pharma Pac currently employs approximately 145 people in the area.

MDA Awards HOME Program Funding for 16 Communities in Mississippi

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded HOME Program funding to 16 communities throughout the state for the rehabilitation/reconstruction of houses for very low to low-income homeowners whose homes are considered to be in disrepair. HOME Program is a grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that is designed to strengthen partnerships between public and private agencies to provide affordable housing through state and local governments. The following grants were awarded:

- Town of Mayersville - \$79,503 to provide housing for one homeowner
- City of Shaw - \$444,192 to provide housing for five homeowners
- Jefferson County Board of Supervisors (BOS) - \$184,831 to provide housing for four homeowners
- Perry County BOS - \$391,343 to provide housing for five homeowners
- Town of Cruger - \$317,988 to provide housing for four homeowners
- Tallahatchie County BOS - \$435,028 to provide housing for five homeowners
- Lawrence County BOS - \$334,389 to provide housing for five homeowners
- Town of Duncan - \$388,000 to provide housing for five homeowners
- City of Lambert - \$288,600 to provide housing for three homeowners
- City of Hollandale - \$505,089 to provide housing for five homeowners
- Coahoma County BOS - \$351,809 to provide housing for four homeowners

- Town of Goodman - \$349,197 to provide housing for four homeowners
- City of Charleston - \$216,200 to provide housing for two homeowners
- Town of Ethel - \$342,442 to provide housing for four homeowners
- Town of Leland - \$285,932 to provide housing for three homeowners
- Town of Courtland - \$103,090.50 to provide housing for two homeowners

Furniture Export Conference to be held Nov. 20 at Franklin Center on Mississippi State University Campus

“Getting Your Share of the World Furniture Market,” a conference designed to provide information to furniture manufacturers about expanding markets and increasing revenues through exporting, will be held Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Franklin Center located on the Mississippi State University (MSU) campus. Representatives from state and federal agencies will be on-hand to provide an overview of services offered to companies wishing to develop or expand their export markets. Representatives will also be available for one-on-one appointments to discuss companies’ specific needs, and online research methods for finding export opportunities will be demonstrated in the Franklin Furniture Institute’s computer classroom.

Assistance will be made available to furniture manufacturers from many sources including MDA’s International Trade Office, the Mississippi World Trade Center, MSU’s Franklin Furniture Institute and the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Mississippi Export Assistance Center. Registration is free, but advanced registration is required. To register, please visit www.ffi.msstate.edu/export, e-mail dmiller@cfr.msstate.edu or call (662) 325-6787.