

MDA E-News Dec. 1, 2008

New Jobs, Outreach, Grants, Welcome Centers and Team Updates

Direct Trailer and Equipment Company Locates in Sunflower County; Creates 20 New Jobs

Direct Trailer and Equipment Company (DTEC) based in Kingwood, Tex., recently opened a new facility in Sunflower County. The facility will manufacture and recondition various types of trailers and transportation equipment, creating 20 new jobs in the area. MDA provided the company with \$47,113 in Development Infrastructure Program (DIP) funds. DIP funds are designed for making grants or loans to counties or municipalities to finance small infrastructure projects to promote economic growth in the state; the DIP funds for this project will be used to construct an access turnoff on Highway 49.

According to the company's website, DTEC "is a company specializing in trailer and specialty manufacturing with a customer-centric approach." To learn more, please visit www.dtec-tx.com.

Governor Barbour, MDA Expand Economic Development Outreach

As the State of Mississippi continues to cultivate relationships with Japan and China, Governor Barbour and MDA are fervently expanding economic development outreach efforts to attract more foreign investment to the state from countries around the globe.

Recently, Governor Barbour participated in economic development missions to Ireland, Germany and Spain to develop relationships with business officials in each of the countries; he met with representatives of companies that have already expressed an interest in learning more about doing business in Mississippi. Governor Barbour said in a recent statement that it is important for Mississippi to explore potential business opportunities and build relationships with European companies despite current national and international economic uncertainties.

MDA executives and staff members have also participated in recent economic development mission trips. MDA Deputy Director/CFO Joey Deason traveled to China along with Adam Murray of MDA's Global Business Division for a conference targeting automotive manufacturers in China. In addition to a visit to Japan, MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope and Rose Boxx, MDA Senior Trade Specialist, visited Chile and Brazil to promote South American investment in Mississippi. MDA also operates a foreign trade office in Santiago, Chile. Under the direction of Orlando Diaz, the office is in place to support the state's international

marketing efforts and enhance the work of both the trade and investment development programs.

MDA Awards more than \$166,000 in Economic Development Marketing Match Grants

MDA recently awarded funding through its Economic Development Marketing Match Grant program to assist not-for-profit economic development organizations in marketing their regions, counties and cities as a site for business and industrial development to out-of-state business investors. Organizations may apply for funding for one marketing project with a total cost of up to \$20,000. The organizations may receive up to \$10,000 in a matching grant.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to: Direct mail pieces to target audiences such as relocation consultants; production of printed materials such as brochures and inserts; advertising through mass media including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet and billboards; and website development related to economic development and marketing the community. Organizations that recently received funding through the Marketing Match Grant program include:

- Area Development Partnership, Forrest County - \$15,000
- East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, Lauderdale County - \$3,207
- Simpson County Development Foundation, Simpson County - \$10,000
- Canton Chamber of Commerce, Madison County - \$1,050
- Downtown Jackson Partners, Hinds County - \$5,000
- Rankin County Chamber of Commerce, Rankin County - \$3,500
- Hinds County Economic Development District, Hinds County - \$10,000
- Harrison County Development Commission, Harrison County - \$10,000
- City of Clinton and Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Hinds County - \$10,000
- Belzoni-Humphreys Development Foundation, Humphreys County - \$2,990
- Columbus-Lowndes Development LINK, Lowndes County - \$10,000
- Mid-Mississippi Development District, Clarke, Jasper, Newton, Scott and Smith Counties - \$2,000
- Community Development Partnership, Neshoba County - \$2,373
- West Point Growth Alliance/ Clay County Community Growth Alliance - \$2,350
- City of Aberdeen, Monroe County - \$10,000
- Community Development Foundation, Lee County - \$10,000
- Itawamba County Development Council, Itawamba County - \$7,500
- Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Monroe County - \$10,000
- Montgomery County Economic Development Partnership,

- Montgomery County - \$2,500
- Kosciusko Attala Development Corporation, Attala County - \$2,500
- Yalobusha County Economic Development District, Yalobusha County - \$10,000
- Greater Jackson Alliance, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, Attala, Leake and Copiah Counties - \$11,000
- Covington County Chamber of Commerce, Covington County - \$638
- Tenn-Tom Waterway Authority, Lowndes, Clay, Lee, Monroe, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Itawamba, Alcorn, Tishomingo and Prentiss Counties - \$15,000

MDA Welcome Centers Host Holiday Open Houses

MDA's Division of Tourism's Welcome Center Bureau is once again celebrating the holiday season this year by hosting several holiday open house programs. These festive activities will include food, music, community-wide fellowship with tourism industry partners and plenty of family fun throughout the month of December. The open houses are free to the public. If you are traveling through the area during a welcome center's open house, be sure to stop in for a visit!

- Adams County Welcome Center - TBD
- Alcorn County Welcome Center - December 1
- Delma Furniss Hospitality Station (Coahoma County) - December 15
- DeSoto County Welcome Center - December 9
- Hancock County Welcome Center - December 12
- Itawamba County Welcome Center - December 5
- Jackson County Welcome Center - December 12
- Lauderdale County Welcome Center - December 9
- Pearl River County Welcome Center - December 12
- Pike County Welcome Center - December 11
- Warren County Welcome Center - December 21
- Washington County Welcome Center - December 7

For more information regarding the open houses, please visit www.visitmississippi.org/welcome.

MDA's Hal Sibley Returns from Japan; Garrick Combs and Christine Lusteck Join EIB Team

Hal Sibley, MDA Senior Project Manager, has returned to the Global Business Division after completing a 14-month assignment in Japan. Sibley worked alongside Paul Mullins, director of MDA's Japan representative office in Yokohama, to recruit Japanese automotive suppliers to the state. Sibley can be reached at hsibley@mississippi.org.

Additionally, Garrick Combs, formerly of MDA's Global Business Division, and Christine Lusteck, formerly of the Disaster Recovery Division, have joined the Existing Industry and Business (EIB) Division. Their moves will

be vital to the strategy of the division as they will be working with companies on expansions and coordinating all related activities such as proposals, training, incentives, etc. They will also be working on the retention of existing industries by addressing any operating/financing situations and ensuring companies are taking advantage of all MDA programs. Along with current staff, the two will serve as resources for local and regional economic development organizations for dissemination of requested information to coordinate requests within MDA as well as other state agencies and ally organizations.

Combs can be reached at gcombs@mississippi.org, and Lusteck can be reached at clusteck@mississippi.org.