

MDA E-News Dec. 8, 2008

Nissan, New Jobs, Nina Parikh Honored and Sundance Film Festival

Nissan Commercial Vehicles to be Manufactured at Canton, Miss. Plant

Nissan North America, Inc., plans to venture into the commercial vehicle (CV) market in 2010 with a product lineup that will incorporate three new products being developed by the company specifically for the North American market. The vehicles will be built at Nissan's Canton, Miss., manufacturing facility, representing a \$118 million investment on the part of Nissan to expand Canton's production to manufacture CVs.

The company recently unveiled the Nissan NV2500 Concept, an original take on the commercial vehicle (CV) design. The vehicle features a three-zone interior and flexible utility and storage solutions. The "wall-less" mobile office/workspace design includes a computer workstation, a fold-down conference table, numerous storage compartments, cargo/tool tie-down racks, nearly six feet of interior height and an awning-style side panel that opens to create a standing outside workshop table. All elements of the vehicle's interior are designed to be multi-functional and highly durable.

Nissan also unveiled the NV200 Concept, another conceptual depiction of a potential Nissan CV product. The NV200 Concept represents a fuel-efficient, delivery-type van and mobile office. The vehicle is a cab-forward design with a unique sliding cargo "pod" that extends from the rear to reveal an IT workspace and living quarters.



Nissan's new commercial vehicle, the NV2500

Mississippi Poultry to Begin Operations in January; Creates 110 New Jobs in Morton

In January, FD Foods, owned by Mississippi Poultry, will open for business in Morton, Miss., creating 110 new jobs in the area. The plant, which is located in the old Peavy building, will be used for deboning and processing poultry meats including dark meat, breast meat and leg meat. The meats will be packaged and shipped all over the United States, including Puerto Rico. Currently, the remodeled facility has three 1,200 square foot freezers, a 3,200 square foot production room and a 3,200 square foot cooler. Owner Salvador Delgado says there are plans to expand. At its peak, the company expects to employ 250.

MDA's Harry Gibbs is serving as project manager for FD Foods, providing guidance and assistance to the company. MDA has also worked closely with Rusty McMillan of the Mid-Mississippi Development District and Morton Mayor Greg Butler to help with the company's transition.

Independent Film Produced by MDA's Nina Parikh Honored at Recent Awards Shows

Ballast, a film shot in Mississippi and produced by MDA's Nina Parikh, recently won the "Breakout Director Award" at the Gotham Awards in New York City. The Gotham Awards are the top awards for independent film on the East Coast. The film was nominated for a total of four awards at the event: Best Feature, Breakthrough Director, Breakthrough Actor and Best Ensemble Performance.

The film has also received six nominations for the Independent Spirit Awards, the top awards for independent film on the West Coast. *Ballast* has been nominated for Best Feature, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best First Screenplay, Best Female Lead and Best Supporting Actor. The Independent Spirit Awards will be held February 21

in Los Angeles.

Earlier this year, the film won two awards at the renowned Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. It has since been well-received at festivals around the world and is beginning to make appearances on "Ten Best" lists.

Ballast, a drama that takes place in the Mississippi Delta, centers around a man dealing with the unexpected loss of his identical twin brother. All of the actors in the film are from Mississippi, and nearly all of the film's crew are Mississippians. To learn more, please visit www.ballastfilm.com. Nina Parikh is the Associate Manager of the Mississippi Film Office, a component of MDA's Tourism Division.

Second Mississippi Film Chosen for Viewing at Sundance Film Festival

For the second straight year, a Mississippi film has been chosen for competition at the Sundance Film Festival. *Prom Night in Mississippi*, an independent film by Canadian filmmaker Paul Saltzman, was one of 16 films selected out of 744 entries. The film will be entered in the prestigious festival's World Cinema Documentary Competition. The Sundance Film Festival will be held January 15 - 25, 2009, in Park City, Utah.

Prom Night in Mississippi took advantage of MDA's Mississippi Motion Picture Incentive Program during the course of filming.