

MDA E-News December 15, 2009**Major Expansion Announced, State Commitments Fulfilled, CAP Loan Awarded, MDA Accepting Energy Audit Applications, Ribbon-Cutting Held****In this issue:**

- [GE Aviation Announces Major Expansion at Batesville Facility; Project to Create 350 New Jobs](#)
- [Severstal Fulfills Commitments to State of Mississippi by Repaying Infrastructure Development Loan Four Years Ahead of Schedule](#)
- [MDA Awards CAP Loan to Lawrence County](#)
- [MDA Now Accepting Applications for Energy Audits; Local Units of Government Encouraged to Apply](#)
- [Dart Container Holds Ribbon-Cutting for Polystyrene Foam Recycling Collection Center](#)

GE Aviation Announces Major Expansion at Batesville Facility; Project to Create 350 New Jobs

GE Aviation has announced its plans to expand operations at its facility in Batesville, where the company produces high-tech composite components for the GENx jet engine. The engine powers Boeing's 787 and 747-8 aircraft, and it is the only engine in the world with composite fan blades, a composite fan platform and a composite fan case. The expansion, which stems from the growth of the use of composites in jet engines, will result in the addition of 350 new jobs at the facility, bringing the total number of employees to 475 by 2013. The project represents an approximately \$85 million investment by GE Aviation. MDA provided \$8.6 million in Momentum Mississippi incentives to help facilitate the expansion, and Panola County provided \$4 million, also to assist with the expansion.



GE Aviation
Batesville, MS

Date: September 12, 2008

Composite materials yield strength and weight savings that traditional metal materials cannot provide. GE Aviation continues to pursue alternative technologies and processes that enable it to produce a more efficient jet engine, and it is also working to increase the use of composite materials in aircraft engines as well as increase production of the composite components it currently manufactures.

For more information about GE Aviation, please visit www.geaviation.com.

Severstal Fulfills Commitments to State of Mississippi by Repaying Infrastructure Development Loan Four Years Ahead of Schedule

Governor Haley Barbour announced last week that steel manufacturer Severstal North America, which operates a steel mill in Columbus, has fulfilled its commitments to the State of Mississippi by repaying a \$10 million infrastructure development loan four years ahead of schedule. Additionally, the state has now been removed from liability on a \$60 million contingent loan guarantee that the Mississippi Legislature had provided for Severstal.

MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope stated that not only has Severstal delivered on its commitment for the number of jobs created, but it has

delivered on its payroll and capital investment. He said that it is great to see Mississippians employed at the facility making a quality product and earning an average salary of \$70,000 per year.

To learn more about Severstal in Columbus, please visit www.severstals.com.

MDA Awards CAP Loan to Lawrence County

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program (CAP)** funds in the amount of **\$105,922 to Lawrence County**. The funds will be used to purchase a new fire truck.

The CAP Loan Program is designed for making loans in order to finance capital improvements. To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org, and click the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

MDA Now Accepting Applications for Energy Audits; Local Units of Government Encouraged to Apply

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 created the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, and in accordance with this legislation, the U.S. Department of Energy allocated MDA \$9.6 million for this program to provide smaller counties and municipalities in Mississippi with energy conservation services. This program also provides grants to assist local units of government that have undertaken energy audits in paying for energy efficient upgrades. **This program is not available to the state's 10 largest cities and 10 largest counties, as they have already received EECBG funds directly from the federal government. All other counties and municipalities in the state may apply for this assistance.**

MDA encourages local units of government to apply for an energy audit under this program in the coming weeks, as the federal government is requiring that the agency obligate EECBG funds in the near future. Applications for energy audits are now available online at stimulus.mississippi.org or may be obtained by calling MDA at (601) 359-6600.

Please note that interested units of government must undertake an energy audit to be eligible for grants for energy efficient upgrades. Details on how to apply for grants for energy efficient upgrades will be made available soon. Please continue to check the MDA stimulus Web site for more information on this grant program.

Dart Container Holds Ribbon-Cutting for Polystyrene Foam Recycling Collection Center

Dart Container, manufacturer of a broad range of single-use products for the food service, retail and food-packaging industries and the world's largest manufacturer of foam cups, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week at its Quitman facility to celebrate the opening of its Foam #6 Recycling Collection Center. The collection center is the state's first foam recycling facility in the state, and it will allow Mississippi residents, businesses and organizations to drop off their used polystyrene foam products, such as cups, plates and egg cartons, that display the number "6" at the site for recycling. MDA Project Manager Harry Gibbs attended the event.

Last year, Dart Container expanded its facility in Quitman to create a projected 200 new jobs over the next five years. MDA assisted the company with its Growth and Prosperity (GAP) certification and benefits and training assistance to help facilitate the expansion. To learn more about Dart Container, please visit www.dartcontainer.com.

For more information on any of these articles, contact us by clicking on the links below. If you have been forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please contact [Melissa Medley](#) or [Tammy Craft](#).