

**MDA E-News December 21, 2009
New Furniture Companies Create Jobs, MDA Awards Funding for
State Improvement Projects, New Plant Opening in Batesville**

In this issue:

- [Two New Furniture Companies to Create 190 Jobs](#)
- [MDA Awards CDBG Emergency Public Facilities Funding for Four Improvement Projects in the State](#)
- [Anderson Technologies Announces Opening of New Plant in Batesville](#)

Two New Furniture Companies to Create 190 Jobs

Two new furniture companies have announced they are locating manufacturing operations in Mississippi, creating a total of 190 new jobs in Monroe and Calhoun Counties.

HomeStretch LLC Announces Location of Furniture Manufacturing Operations in Nettleton, Miss.; Project to Create 140 Jobs over Four Years

HomeStretch LLC, an upholstered furniture manufacturing company, has announced it is locating its operations in Nettleton, Miss., in Monroe County. The new company is an investment by owners William "Skipper" Holliman and Gentry Long, and it will create approximately 140 new jobs over the next four years. MDA is loaning \$1.5 million in Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program funds to Monroe County for the purchase of the former Advantage manufacturing facility in which HomeStretch's operations will be located. MDA also provided \$298,000 for improvements to the building, and the Appalachian Regional Commission provided \$240,000, also for building improvements. HomeStretch will manufacture upholstered reclining furniture including chairs, sofas, loveseats and sectionals. Production at the facility is scheduled to begin by March 2010. Governor Haley Barbour stated that this project is another example of the kind of public-private job creating partnerships that have proven so successful in Mississippi over the last few years.

Kidz World Furniture Celebrates Grand Opening in Calhoun City

Officials from Kidz World Furniture, manufacturer of upholstered children's furniture, celebrated its grand opening last week with a ribbon-cutting

ceremony at its 120,000-square-foot facility in Calhoun City. The company was started in August 2009, and it has since grown to 50 employees. Kidz World is now fully-operational, producing roughly 3,000 pieces of furniture each week. The new company represents a \$200,000 investment by owner A.D. Blount. MDA provided Calhoun City with \$95,000 in Rural Impact Funds to assist with public building improvements for the project.

Kidz World Furniture manufactures children's furniture with licensed logos from professional and college sports teams, Mossy Oak brand camouflage and Nickelodeon cartoon characters, including Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob Squarepants. Kidz World is a sister company to Med-Life and Mobility, Inc., which is also owned by Blount, and produces lift chairs and adjustable beds for both the medical and furniture industries.

To learn more about Kidz World Furniture, please visit the company's Web site at www.kidzworldfurniture.com.

MDA works with furniture companies in Mississippi to help them take advantage of programs and services available to assist them in remaining competitive and in growing their operations.

The agency works with furniture manufacturers in the state to help them acquire Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) manufacturing authority. MDA and Governor Barbour provided assistance to Lane, H.M. Richards and Bauhaus USA through the Mississippi Jobs Protection Act to help these companies acquire FTZ manufacturing authority. Early in 2009, the U.S. FTZ Board approved FTZ manufacturing authority for the three companies, allowing them to maintain their in-house cut-and-sew operations rather than outsourcing to foreign locations. This helped the companies retain approximately 950 jobs in Lee County and also helped reduce the companies' raw materials costs by over \$1 million per year. Also through the Mississippi Jobs Protection Act during Governor Barbour's administration, MDA has been able to provide financial support for the Mississippi Furniture Market each year.

In addition, MDA's Trade Bureau provides international marketing and technical assistance services to Mississippi furniture companies looking to sell their products to overseas buyers. The bureau's international trade specialists host export development seminars, represent Mississippi businesses and products at international trade shows and catalog shows and provide research and export financing assistance to Mississippi businesses interested in exporting their products to international markets.

For more information regarding ways MDA can assist furniture manufacturers in Mississippi, please contact MDA's Existing Industry and Business Division at (601) 359-3593, or e-mail eibus@mississippi.org.

MDA Awards CDBG Emergency Public Facilities Funding for Four Improvement Projects in the State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** funding for four **infrastructure improvement** projects in the state. To receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funds, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The awards, which total approximately \$252,000, include:

- City of Quitman - \$62,273
- Town of Flora - \$54,618
- Sunflower County - \$44,937
- Town of Woodville - \$90,000

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.

Anderson Technologies Announces Opening of New Plant in Batesville

Anderson Technologies announced last week the opening of a contract manufacturing and precision injection molding plant in Batesville. The company anticipates the plant will be operational by February 2010. Once fully operational, the company will employ approximately 50 workers at the Batesville facility. MDA provided \$50,000 in Momentum Mississippi incentives, and the Panola Partnership provided \$10,000 to help facilitate the project.

Headquartered in Grand Haven, Mich., Anderson Technologies provides contract manufacturing and precision injection molding services to companies in a diverse range of industries, including the office furniture, automotive, transportation, consumer products, small electronics, agricultural, horticultural and medical sectors. The company offers a comprehensive set of related services, including product design and engineering support, 3-D rapid prototyping, moldmaking, program management, fulfillment and distribution services and more. To learn more, please visit www.andtec.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](#).