



REMOTE DATA CENTERS

Mississippi is Backing You Up

An increasing number of companies are utilizing remote data centers to more efficiently and reliably store their secondary data. These backup networks are used to safeguard corporate services and data from major failures, protect against disasters and guarantee business continuity. This kind of business continuity planning has become even more important in the years following the terrorist attacks of 2001, and the data center market is expected to continue its growth in the coming years.

Mississippi, with its location in proximity to many urban centers, is an excellent choice for these data centers. With the trend toward continued growth in these kinds of facilities, Mississippi is prepared to provide the workforce and the infrastructure needed to expand this sector of the economy.

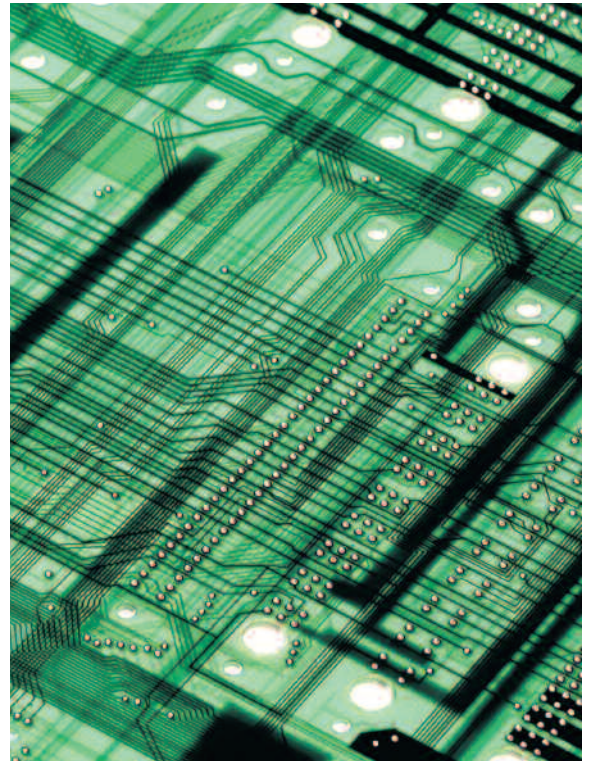
Fast Fact: Mississippi has more than 340,000 miles of fiber optics in place. The ratio of mileage to population is among the highest in the nation.

An Advanced Infrastructure Network

Mississippi demonstrated its commitment to improving telecommunications infrastructure with the passage of the **Mississippi Broadband Technology Development Act** in 2003. This act provided incentives to telecommunications businesses to upgrade the state's telecom infrastructure. Since its passage, BellSouth has made significant improvements to create a far-reaching and sophisticated network throughout the state.

This telecom incentive program has encouraged development of the state's technology infrastructure in all parts of the state, but particularly in rural areas. For example, BellSouth has deployed DSL in 87 offices that had not previously been scheduled for DSL service.

BellSouth's fiber network in Mississippi has grown to include 203 central office switches with more than 341,000 miles of fiber in fiber optic cables and more than 8,300 route miles of fiber. DSL technology is provided in 99 percent of BellSouth's central offices and in 500 remote sites throughout the state. The company's self-healing interoffice network now serves in excess of one million lines, with all central offices in the state being 100 percent SONET capable.



A Qualified Workforce

A qualified and affordable workforce is an essential element to operating a successful data center.

Mississippi's labor force of 1.3 million workers is very reliable, with a low three percent absenteeism rate and only a five percent turnover rate. This reliability and stability help ensure the success of office sector operations located in the state. In addition, labor costs in Mississippi are among the lowest in the nation, which helps hold down the overall cost of doing business in the state.

With eight public universities, 13 private colleges and universities, and 15 community colleges, Mississippi graduates nearly 20,000 students each year. These graduates are well-trained to meet the needs of today's technology-based data centers.

A Supportive Business Climate

Mississippi offers a strong, supportive business climate, where the cost of doing business is low and many other tools are available to help your data center compete in today's economy. Locations within Mississippi can offer companies substantial savings compared with many other parts of the U.S.

As previously mentioned, Mississippi provides data centers with tax credits and other incentives under the **Mississippi Broadband Technology Development Act**. This act offers larger economic incentives to companies that deploy broadband in sparsely populated areas and a smaller, but still significant, incentive for deploying



broadband in urban areas in the state. Specifically, it provides reimbursement of equipment costs for providing broadband services through an income tax credit. There are also income tax credits available for job creation and retraining of employees.

The **Mississippi Advantage Jobs Incentive Program** provides quarterly incentive payments based on a percentage of withholding to qualifying companies for up to 10 years, which provides an important cash benefit to new companies locating in the state. Some local property tax and certain sales and use tax exemptions may also be available under the act.

The **Tort Reform Act of 2004** is another important element of the business climate in Mississippi. This act ensures fairness in the courtroom for Mississippi businesses, with provisions that address joinder and venue; innocent seller protection; and non-economic damages caps.

In addition, the state offers a variety of training programs through the **community/junior college system** to assist companies in preparing workers for new job opportunities within the data center industry.

Companies seeking new sites for data centers will find an abundance of land available, including locations in technology parks. Many communities have sites available that are controlled by local government or economic development organizations, which allows for fast and easy real estate purchases.

To learn more about keeping your data in Mississippi, call the Mississippi Development Authority at 1.800.360.3323 or visit our website at www.mississippi.org.

