



METAL FABRICATION AND STEEL

Forge Your Future in Mississippi

The automotive industry is one of several manufacturing industries that are supported by metal production. But the growing presence of automotive assembly plants in the southern United States certainly influenced SeverCorr to announce in 2005 that it would join a number of other steel and metal fabrication companies in Mississippi.

John Correnti, president of SeverCorr, said the decision to locate the steel mill in Lowndes County, Mississippi, was driven by the site's proximity to the growing number of automotive producers located in the southern United States, access to low cost and reliable electric power, a well-trained and committed workforce, and the supportive, business-friendly environment in Mississippi.

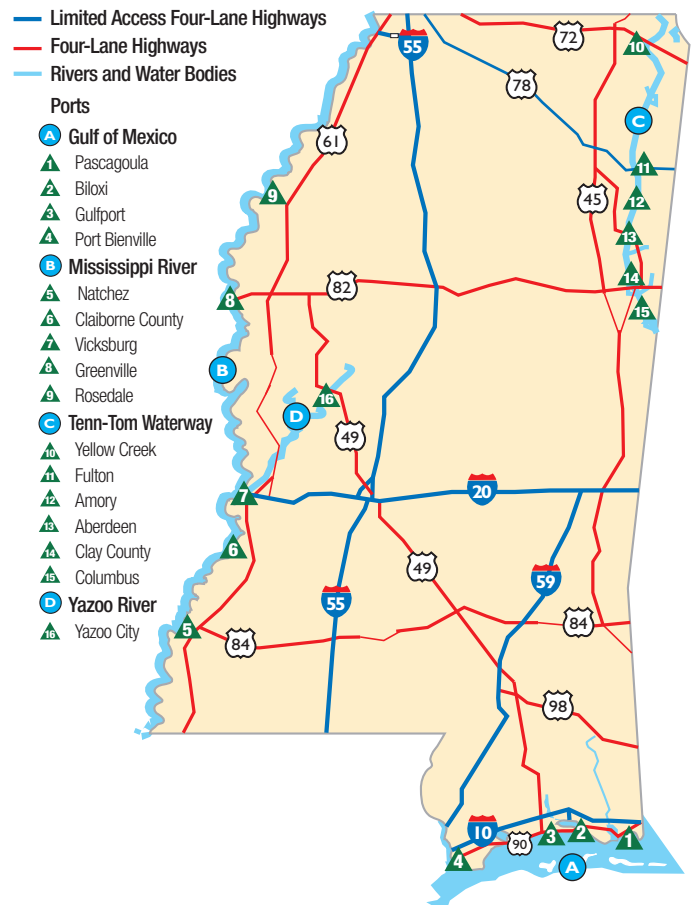
“The key factors in the decision to locate the facility in northeastern Mississippi were proximity to the company’s customers, access to favorably priced energy, a good business climate and the possibility of gaining a logistics advantage.”

John Correnti, President, SeverCorr

An Industry Overview

The SeverCorr project was the largest industrial project announced in the United States in 2005, with a projected investment of \$850 million for construction of a 1.2 million square foot facility. But it will join Nucor Steel and almost 300 other steel and metal fabrication facilities that have already forged a great future in Mississippi and employ almost 15,000 workers.

Mississippi offers these companies access to outstanding water transportation, reliable electricity and a supportive business climate that includes an expedited environmental permitting process.



Mississippi Metal & Steel Fabrication	
Total Employment	14,659
Total Metal Fabrication/Steel Companies	281

Ready Sites

Mississippi officials understand that metal fabrication and steel projects often need ready-to-go industrial sites that have been zoned for industrial projects, have completed preliminary environmental assessments and have basic infrastructure in place.

Mississippi now has five identified “mega-sites” available for very large manufacturing facilities, in addition to a number of other suitable sites located on the state’s extensive waterways system. These sites not only have adequate acreage for a large manufacturing facility, but also have well-defined infrastructure and development plans and the transportation access necessary to meet the needs of metal fabricators and steel manufacturers.

In addition to having ready sites, **Mississippi’s Department of Environmental Quality** offers manufacturers a one-stop permitting process for all environmental permits and regulations. It is also important to note that the entire state of Mississippi has achieved air quality attainment status.

Fast Fact: Employees at the SeverCorr facility in Columbus, Mississippi, will have an average annual salary of \$70,000, thanks in part to Mississippi’s skilled, dedicated and productive workforce.

An Accessible Location

The ability to move raw materials in and finished product out to market is essential to successful metal and steel manufacturers. Prime Mississippi locations offer both highway and rail access, in addition to key ports along the Gulf Coast and the state’s navigable rivers.

Mississippi’s highway system ranks among the four best in the country and the best in the southern United States. Interstate 55, which runs north and south, provides access to major markets like Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans and St. Louis, while Interstates 10 and 20, running east and west, provide access to Atlanta, Birmingham, Dallas and Los Angeles.

Mississippi is located in the heart of the Southern Automotive Corridor that runs along Interstates 65, 75, 85, 20 and 55. This gives metal fabrication and steel companies the



opportunity to be in close proximity to assembly plants throughout the region.

Mississippi’s location, which is central to both U.S. coasts, is within a day’s drive of more than 50 percent of the U.S. business population, including such major markets as Atlanta, Birmingham, Dallas, Houston, Little Rock, Memphis, Mobile, Nashville, New Orleans and St. Louis. Twenty rail systems serve Mississippi with more than 2,800 miles of track, and the state’s 16 ports include two on the Gulf Coast that provide access to worldwide commerce.

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 business compete in today’s economy. Locations within Mississippi can offer companies substantial savings compared with many other parts of the U.S.

Economic incentive programs provide income tax credits for job creation, investment, retraining of employees and for research and development activities. 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. Cities and counties may also offer a property tax exemption for qualifying projects.

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 its **community/junior college system** to assist companies in preparing workers for new job opportunities within the metal fabrication/steel industry.

A right-to-work state, Mississippi’s union membership is less than seven percent. And the workforce is well-prepared for jobs in the manufacturing sector, with more than 16 percent of its workers employed in manufacturing, the fifth highest per capita in the nation.

Mississippi’s excellent industrial sites, combined with reliable utilities and one-stop environmental permitting, accessible location and supportive business climate make Mississippi an ideal location for the rapidly growing metal fabrication/steel industry.

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