

# **Mississippi Development Authority**

## **FRIDAY FACTS**

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*“If something has been done a particular way for fifteen or twenty years, it’s a pretty good sign, in these changing times, that it is being done the wrong way.”*

*-- Elliot M. Estes*

### **MISSISSIPPI BASED PARTNERSHIP AWARDED PHASE C CONTRACT FOR NISSAN**

J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority announced Wednesday that Hill Brothers Construction Company, based in Falkner, Mississippi and T.L. Wallace Construction Company, based in Columbia, Mississippi, a joint venture partnership, was awarded a contract to construct 2/3 of the building pad for approximately \$25 million for “Second Earthwork Contract – Phase C.” The scope of work consists of excavation and placement of approximately 2 million cubic yards of embankment compacted in place, lime treatment of sub grade and other miscellaneous items of work. Work will begin on the project immediately and must be completed within 50 days.

“We are pleased to be moving forward to meet our deadlines,” Mr. Burns said.

These companies are two of the largest earth moving companies in Mississippi.

A total of three proposals were submitted for consideration.

### **NISSAN TIMELINE**

January 22	Contracts awarded for the first phase of roads and highways development to Eutaw Construction Company
January 22	Press conference held statewide to announce mailing of 41,000 letters and update on supplier meeting
January 25	Pre-proposal meeting held at 2 p.m. Robert E. Lee Building

January 29	Phase B proposals due to Mississippi Major Impact Authority
January 31	Phase B contract awarded to Eutaw Construction Company
February 1	Minority and Small Business Coordinators selected – Denotee Martin Contractor, Inc., and Systems Consultants Associates, Inc.
February 1	Pre-proposal meeting held at 2 p.m. Robert E. Lee Building
February 7	Phase C contract awarded to Hill Brothers Construction Company and T.L. Wallace Construction Company
February 19-23	Supplier meeting to be held
April 1	Turn over building pad to Nissan
April 1	Nissan begins building construction
April 6	Groundbreaking ceremonies

The plant, with a capacity of 250,000 vehicles a year, will produce a full-size pickup truck, a full-size sport-utility vehicle and the next generation Nissan minivan. Production of the first vehicle is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2003. Initially, 3,300 people will be employed, with a potential employment level of 4,000 in the future. Additional information as it becomes available is posted on the web at: [www.mississippiandnissan.com](http://www.mississippiandnissan.com).

## **GOVERNOR PROMOTES STATE'S ONE-STOP CENTERS**

Governor Ronnie Musgrove promoted the use of Mississippi's One-Stop Centers at a press conference held Wednesday at the One-Stop Center in Pearl on St. Paul Street. "Our state's One-Stop Centers are a one-stop delivery system designed to meet the needs of business, job seekers and people who want to further their careers," said the Governor.

The One-Stop Centers were developed through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) implemented in Mississippi July 1, 2000. WIA is a federally funded program that provides for a unique workforce development and employment system by consolidating and improving employment, training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs. "We are working together with agencies, community and junior colleges and the Mississippi Employment Securities

Commission to coordinate our efforts and make the most of every federal dollar committed to educating and training Mississippians," said Governor Musgrove.

One-Stop Centers provide one convenient location where job seekers and employers can get information about a wide variety of employment and job training services. Employers can find qualified workers with the skills needed to grow their business. Job seekers can get help with developing a resume, use computers, receive tips on job searches, prepare for an interview and fax their resume to potential employers.

"Through the development of these centers we are better utilizing our resources," said the Governor. " We are cutting down on the duplication of services we provide across the state, and we are maximizing and efficiently managing our funds."

There are currently 25 One-Stop Centers located across our state. "That means more Mississippians have access to the services that will help them improve the quality of life for themselves and their families," said Governor Musgrove.

### **GENNIE LACY JONES NAMED DIRECTOR OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DIVISION**

Mississippi native, Gennie Lacy Jones has been appointed as Director of the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority.

"We must work diligently to find new ways to support small, rural and minority owned businesses across our state," said Governor Musgrove. "Ms. Jones brings with her a great amount of experience working with minority and women owned businesses through her previous positions. We are looking forward to the positive effect she will have as we work together to grow existing Mississippi businesses and recruit new business to our state."

The Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED) promotes the growth and development of minority-owned businesses in Mississippi. MBED provides direct and indirect technical assistance to new and existing minority- and women-owned and operated businesses; creates diverse programs to help these businesses move into the mainstream of economic development in the state; and forms partnerships with public and private organizations to encourage maximum business initiatives.

Jones previously served as First Deputy, Department of Procurement Services, Office of Business Development for the City of Chicago, Illinois. As First Deputy, Jones managed the City of Chicago's Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Program. This office was established specifically to enhance the capabilities of Minority-owned Business Enterprises and Women-owned Business Enterprises to compete more successfully for contracts with the city of Chicago.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Gennie's background and experience," said J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority. "Her knowledge of minority and women-owned business development will be invaluable to our agency and to Mississippi."

Prior experience includes serving as Senior Program Manager with the General Services Administration, Senior Network Engineer / IT consultant with General Electric Information Services and Project Officer with the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

A graduate of the Mississippi Valley State University, Jones, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Jones also holds a Masters of Science degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. She is also a graduate of the Intergovernmental Executive Development Program held at Harold Washington College.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve the citizens and businesses of the State that nurtured me," said Jones. "As my home, Mississippi has always enjoyed a favorite place in my heart. I am looking forward to working with Governor Musgrove and Mr. Burns. Together, we will seek to forge new ground by increasing procurement opportunities and by building financial capacity among the minority businesses in Mississippi."

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY CDA/CHAMBER SEEKS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

The Lawrence County Community Development Association and Chamber of Commerce in Monticello are seeking an Assistant Director to handle office and financial management, meeting coordination, newsletter writing and preparation, updating the web site, and assisting with prospect recruitment and grant-writing. An approximate introductory salary range of \$18,000 to \$24,000/yr. is available, based on the successful candidate's qualifications and experience. A complete job description is available by calling (601) 587-3007. Candidates should send a resume to Paul McLain, Lawrence County CDA/Chamber, P.O. Box 996 Monticello, MS 39654 on or before February 2, 2001. Resumes may also be faxed to (601) 587-0765 or E-mailed to [lccda@telepak.net](mailto:lccda@telepak.net).

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The Mississippi Development Authority *Friday Facts* is distributed to MDA staff, economic and community development professionals, legislators and other interested parties. Inquiries regarding this publication or information should be submitted to Stephen Martin, Communications Office, telephone 601.359.3555; fax 601.359.3596; email [smartin@mississippi.org](mailto:smartin@mississippi.org). Visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).