

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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QUITMAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION MICRO ENTERPRISE PROGRAM AWARDED NEW LOAN FUNDS

Officials with the Quitman County Development Organization (QCDO) Micro-Enterprise Development & Business Loan Program announced new funds have been made available for new and existing businesses in Quitman, Panola and Tallahatchie counties.

The Micro Enterprise Program was recently approved to become an intermediary (lender) for the Mississippi Business Enterprise Loan Program (MBELP), administered by the Mississippi Development Authority through the Financial Resources Division. The MBELP assists minority, women-owned and/or socially and economically disadvantaged enterprises by providing up to \$100,000. The Micro Loan Program will finance from \$2,000 to \$15,000 and up to 100% (subject to approval).

"We congratulate the Quitman County Development Organization on becoming a qualified entity for the State of Mississippi loan program. We look forward to working with them in developing their programs," said Gennie Jones, director, Mississippi Development Authority, Minority Business Enterprise Division.

According to Antoinette Green, Quitman County Development Organization, program director and loan officer for the program, "The process for the MBELP is expected to be shorter, approximately one month and easier to access for eligible applicants than many other available programs."

The Micro Enterprise Program will remain the same with a few exceptions such as varying terms, rates and a minority certification requirement. The information applicants are required to submit is listed on the program checklist. Basic requirements for the program are: pre-application, application, business plan, 100% collateral and a portion of owner's equity.

"The Micro Enterprise Program will continue to provide technical assistance and training to its clients in collaboration with its business education partners," added Green.

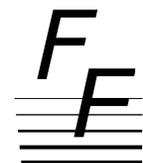
For additional information regarding applying for a loan, please contact Antoinette Green at 662-326-4000.

PLANHOUSE GALLERY TO OPEN NEXT MONTH

PlanHouse Inc. announced it will open its first PlanHouse Gallery in Jackson on June 16, 2001. The company said it plans to open galleries across 20 states over the next four years.

PlanHouse Gallery, the "bricks and mortar" component of the company, is best described as a permanent home exposition. The gallery will feature supplier displays, a home plans and home design studio, an interior design marketplace and a cafe. Exhibition space within each gallery will be licensed by local interior and exterior home products suppliers, and home-related services providers may also purchase display space.

"From exterior and interior product selections to house plans to landscapers, PlanHouse Gallery makes it easy to find fresh ideas, explore options and organize plans all under one roof," said Frank York, COO of PlanHouse Inc.



"Industry is the soul of business and the keystone of prosperity."

- Charles Dickens

ENCOMPASS LANDS NISSAN CONTRACT WORTH MORE THAN \$30 MILLION

Encompass Services Corporation (NYSE: ESR) has won a contract worth in excess of \$30 million to provide mechanical services for the Nissan automotive plant being built near Canton in Madison County.

Encompass, which owns Ivey Mechanical of Kosciusko, will design and install heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing equipment for the \$930-million, 2.6-million-square-foot complex.

"We are pleased to have been selected for the fast-track, high-profile project for an end customer and general contractor (W.G. Yates & Sons Construction of Philadelphia, Miss) with whom we have long-term, valuable relationships," said Joe Ivey, president and CEO of Encompass and native Mississippian.

Encompass has been working with Nissan since 1990. It has performed plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and process pipe work for Nissan's plants in Smyrna, Tenn., and Decherd, Tenn.

When completed, the Nissan plant is expected to produce 250,000 vehicles annually, including a new SUV, full-size pickup truck and next-generation minivan. It is scheduled to go into production in the summer of 2003.

Encompass is the largest provider of facilities systems and services in the U.S. With annual revenues of \$4.3 billion, the company provides a portfolio of electrical technologies, mechanical services and cleaning systems to commercial, industrial and residential customers throughout the nation.

MESC ADDS NISSAN JOB LINE

The Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) has added a phone line to assist parties interested in job opportunities with the Nissan automotive plant being built in Madison County. Job seekers may call (601) 961-7697 and receive information about the qualifications for the production worker and maintenance technician

positions and how to apply for them. The information is also available at www.mississippiandnissan.com and at any MESC office.

Applications for production worker jobs are being accepted via mail only. Interested job seekers should mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, P.O. Box 1247, Canton, MS 39046. The requests must be postmarked on or before June 30, 2001. MESC will then mail the job seeker an application. Completed applications must be returned to MESC by July 30, 2001.

MESC is handling all application screenings. The requirements are that the worker must have 18 months of work history with preferably industrial or factory experience, and be able to read, write and do basic math.

Production workers will earn \$13.25 per hour when the plant opens in 2003. The plant, being built near Canton, is expected to eventually employ up to 4,000 workers and produce approximately 250,000 next-generation minivans, full-size pickups and full-size SUVs annually.

"The jobs will not actually start until 2003, but the recruitment process may not be opened up again," said Jamie Graham, MESC Nissan Project coordinator.

REMINDER: MINORITY LOAN AWARENESS SEMINAR SET FOR MAY 18

Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority, Minority Business Enterprise Division, Rural Minority Business Development Center along with the Picayune Community Development Department will host a Minority Loan Awareness Seminar Friday, May 18 in the Centraplex at the Mississippi Mall Civic Center located on Memorial Boulevard in Picayune, Mississippi.

Registration opens at 6 p.m. The seminar begins at 6:30 p.m. concluding at 8:30 p.m. For additional information, call Robert Williams with MDA at 228-396-9185 or 601-798-9778.

The Mississippi Development Authority's *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. Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.mississippi.org.