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USA YEAST TO LOCATE IN GREATER HATTIESBURG AREA

USA Yeast announced plans today to locate a new facility in the Greater Hattiesburg, Mississippi area. Area Development Partnership (ADP) officials along with representatives from the Mississippi Development Authority, City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County participated in the news conference that took place this morning at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center.

USA Yeast is a new company with primary investors from Dothan, Alabama. The company will produce yeast for high-speed wholesale baking operations in the Southeast and Midwest United States. Individual shareholder's experience in yeast manufacturing and sales ranges from 12 to 25 years.

"We are very excited about making an investment in this facility and the Greater Hattiesburg Area. The centralized location to our primary markets and the quality of the electric, water, rail and sewer services here led us to this decision. Area Development Partnership officials made us aware of these services, guided us through the development process and made this a great experience for everyone involved," said Mike Lavalley, a partner with USA Yeast.

The company is expected to employ approximately 50 people. Construction on the company's new facility to be located near the Forrest County Industrial Park on John Merle Tatum Industrial Drive is scheduled to begin this month. "We will be bringing in management teams to begin the interviewing process in late spring early summer of 2002. Our plans are to begin operations in December of next year," added Lavalley.

"This is great news for the Greater Hattiesburg Area, especially in light of the current state of the economy," said Gray Swoope, ADP President. USA Yeast will be a valuable addition to an already strong industrial base here. The

Owners of this company are community minded. They have been involved in their own community of Dothan and we welcome their support and involvement here," added Swoope.

Area Development Partnership officials worked with Forrest County and the Hattiesburg Forrest County Industrial Park Commission on this project. The ADP would like to thank and recognize the City of Hattiesburg for its efforts in locating USA Yeast to our area.

"Mayor Johnny DuPree and his staff did an outstanding job on this project. They addressed complex needs of this company in a timely and efficient manner," added Swoope.