



TO: Area Media
FROM: Area Development Partnership
REGARDING: High-Tech Solar Panel Company Selects Hattiesburg
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HATTIESBURG, MS –The Area Development Partnership, along with Governor Haley Barbour and the Mississippi Development Authority announced today a major investment from Stion, a thin-film solar panel company. After conducting a nationwide search, company officials selected Hattiesburg as the location for a new, state of the art solar panel production facility.

One of the main focuses of the ADP is to recruit and retain businesses within the Greater Hattiesburg Area of Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties. The Area Development Partnership (ADP), Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and State of Mississippi have diligently worked together over the past year in recruiting Stion to the area.

Stion manufactures the world's highest efficiency low-cost thin-film solar panels, which are designed for commercial, residential and utility market segments. Founded in 2006 in San Jose, California, Stion has raised \$114 million including \$50 million from Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), the world's largest semiconductor chip foundry. Stion has a world-class team of industry expertise and a proven high-yield manufacturing process and has been selected as a Red Herring Top 100 North America Tech Startup (2010).

"This is one of the largest business recruitment projects in the history of Forrest County," said David Hogan, President of the Forrest County Board of Supervisors. "We greatly appreciate Stion's confidence in our community."

Stion has initial plans to hire more than 200 and invest \$120 million. Over the first six years of commercial production, Stion plans to expand to 1,000 jobs with an investment of \$500 million. The average salary for Stion employees will be a minimum of \$43,000.

"Stion's selection of Hattiesburg is a testament to our pro-business environment. Landing a renewable energy company here in Hattiesburg is extremely exciting. The quality new jobs and capital investment will be a huge boost to our local economy," said Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny DuPree.

Stion will occupy part of the former Sunbeam building located in the Hattiesburg-Forrest County Industrial Park. Hattiesburg is a prime investment area for businesses to start-up and expand because of the pro-business environment, exceptional workforce, higher education cluster, quality available real estate and superb quality of life here in the Pine Belt.

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“Hattiesburg continues to be ranked in national publications as a superb place to live, work and play,” said Chad Newell, President of the Area Development Partnership. “Stion is a perfect match for our community. The company embodies the entrepreneurial nature of our college town environment.”

For further information, please contact Catherine Lott, ADP Communications and Events Director at 601.296.7500.

The Area Development Partnership serves as the Chamber of Commerce, Community and Economic Development organization for Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties, the City of Hattiesburg and the City of Petal. The mission of the ADP is to stimulate economic growth through the resources of its members and partners leading to an improved economic well-being and quality of life for Greater Hattiesburg Area citizens.

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