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**Governor Haley Barbour to Hold News Conference at
Specialized Mobile Job Training Facility at Batesville
GE Aviation Plant**

Batesville, Miss. – Governor Haley Barbour on June 9 will welcome the participants in D-STAMP, a unique workforce training program targeting businesses and workers in the Mississippi Delta. The event will be at 2:30 p.m. at GE Aviation, 1450 Mississippi Route 6, in Batesville.

D-STAMP, the Disadvantages Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program, is a mobile job training initiative that will work with Delta companies at no cost to quickly train workers for highly skilled jobs. Governor Barbour funded the program through a \$300,000 grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. D-STAMP will be administered by Time Wise Management Systems, a Lean business consulting company.

“D-STAMP is the type of innovative approach we need to quickly prepare workers in the Mississippi Delta for the highly technical jobs our state is attracting,” Governor Barbour said. “I thank all our partners for bringing D-STAMP to Mississippi companies, and I appreciate the commitment of GE Aviation to Mississippi.”

The Delta Workforce Investment Area and South Delta Planning and Development District are assisting with implementation of the program.

“GE Aviation’s Batesville facility is doubling its workforce this year and hiring an additional 120 employees to handle our increasing workload,” commented Jeanne Edwards, Batesville plant manager for GE Aviation. “Time Wise will help us train these new employees to ensure they have the right skills that they need to succeed in their new jobs.”

D-STAMP will be at GE Aviation from June 1 – 11. The traveling unit is equipped with the latest industrial technology where participants learn practical manufacturing skills during the two weeks of intense training. D-STAMP’s mobility can bring training to Delta companies where jobs and potential employees are located, including an employer’s plant site.

“D-STAMP is for entry-level workers who want to go into manufacturing,” commented Mitzi Woods, Delta Workforce Investment Area Director. “When a local manufacturer like GE Aviation needs trained employees, they help us determine exactly what they’re looking for. After we know their particular needs, we train the workers on-site at the plant, using our specialized mobile equipment.”

“The City of Batesville and the area are pleased to see GE Aviation participate in the D-STAMP program,” commented Sonny Simmons, Executive Director of the Panola Partnership. “Any time training is available to workers, it’s a plus, and on-site training is incredible. These employees will have a lot of practical training under their belt when they start their on-the-job training on the shop floor. This is great for GE Aviation. It’s great for Batesville.”

GE Aviation, an operating unit of GE (NYSE: GE), is a world-leading provider of jet and turboprop engines, components and integrated systems for commercial and military aircraft. GE Aviation has a global service network to support these offerings.

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc. was founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Today, it provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

South Delta Planning & Development District serves as the fiscal/administrative agent for Delta Workforce Investment Area, one of four workforce investment areas in the state of Mississippi designated to carry out the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). As an increasing number of federal programs are passed to the states, DWIA is continually called upon to assist in developing the delivery of these services to local residents. This assistance is currently provided by a staff of 50 professionals. The programs are all-inclusive from the elderly to the young; from the disadvantaged unemployed to the large corporate employers; from the renters to the homeowners; from the federal government to the unincorporated areas of the rural Delta.

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Media Alert:

Governor Barbour will speak Wednesday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m. The D-STAMP unit will be available for media tours at the conclusion of the governor's remarks. Program participants and instructors will be available for comment at this time.

Representatives of the media must contact Lacy Lockett at 662-844-2654 or lacy@robinson-advertising.com before noon on June 7 if planning to attend this event. For security purposes, background checks will be conducted in advance on all who plan to attend, and attendees must be U.S. citizens. Please provide your full name, including your middle name, your company's name and physical address, as well as a statement attesting to U.S. citizenship. You must bring your media identification and wear it all times. Cameras must also be registered in advance with GE. This registration form can be requested from Lacy Lockett so that it can be completed prior to arrival at GE Aviation.

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