

Specialized Mobile Job Facility Offers Glimpse into Unique Training Option

Cleveland, Miss. – Today locals were offered a look into a unique mobile training facility temporarily located at Faurecia in Cleveland. The **Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program, or D-STAMP**, is a two-week mobile job training program financed through federal stimulus funds designed to help workers sharpen their manufacturing skills. Housed in a mobile unit outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, the two-week intensive training program teaches workers the latest in manufacturing technology, improving their skills and heightening their chances for job placement. D-STAMP's mobility enables it to go where the unemployed are, making it not only a unique workforce training program but a timely one as well.

The \$300,000 program is being implemented through a partnership involving Delta Workforce Investment Area, South Delta Planning and Development District and Time Wise Management Systems, a Lean business consulting company that provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

“D-STAMP is about helping entry-level workers who want to go into manufacturing,” commented Mitzi Woods, South Delta Planning and Development District Workforce Director. “Local manufacturers like Faurecia help us determine what they need – what kind of worker they’re looking for. Then, we know how to help them get the workforce they need. We train them with our specialized mobile equipment on the site of their potential employer. We can’t guarantee the participants new jobs, but they will be interviewed for the jobs the employer has available.”

Faurecia is one of the world’s leading (#5 worldwide) automotive suppliers with four key Business Groups: Automotive Seating, Emissions Control Technologies, Interior Systems and Automotive Exteriors. It employs 62,000 people in 32 countries at 200 sites and 33 R&D centers. The Cleveland, Miss., plant handles seat frame assembly operations for multiple vehicle platforms. Faurecia is one of the largest employers in Cleveland.

“Faurecia depends on a highly-trained group of employees,” commented Bob Poehler, Faurecia’s Plant Manager in Cleveland. “We operate an advanced manufacturing facility that is committed to safety and quality. Partnering with D-STAMP helps us to train qualified employees so that they can begin work at Faurecia with a stronger skill set and an understanding of the processes that are important to our company and our customers.”

Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judson Thigpen expressed the need for the D-STAMP program. “This is a critical time for Mississippi Delta workers. It’s imperative that we do everything we can to help them find employment. We’re very pleased that we can utilize this special training here.”

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 The 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, the District 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.