



PARTNERS DRIVING PROGRESS

F/K/A: Macon Ridge Economic Development Region, Inc.

tel: 318.757.3033

fax: 318.757.4212

www.nelea.us
www.renewalla.com

903 Louisiana Ave. - Post Office Drawer 746 - Ferriday, LA 71334

ECONOMIC ALLIANCE
NELEA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Contact: Michelle Boothe
318-757-3033, ext. 16



NORTHEAST LOUISIANA ECONOMIC ALLIANCE RECEIVES 2008 AUTOMOTIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance has been selected as one of five national recipients of Expansion and Solution Magazine's 2008 Award of Excellence in the Automotive category for the second year in a row. This award recognizes areas that have demonstrated exceptional progress and potential in the development of their areas – by successfully recruiting, retaining and growing businesses.

Several years ago, Tana Trichel, President and CEO of the Northeast Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, which serves a 13 parish region, had a vision to create jobs by bringing a major manufacturer to her area. She went hunting for a large tract of land and found a landowner in Richland Parish who shared her dream. The late George Franklin, who the site is named after, agreed to give the state a 12-year option to buy 1,425 acres – with 6,000 available – for \$10... and the rest is history. This site is now perfectly positioned to bring in a major automotive manufacturer.

Franklin Farm is ideally situated in northeast Louisiana between GM's assembly plant in Shreveport and a Nissan factory in Mississippi. In fact, the state-owned Franklin Farm site is within 125 miles of over 100 auto suppliers. Located along the Interstate 20 Southern Auto Corridor, the 1,440-acre site allows for quick access to suppliers in the region. Less than 50 miles from the Port of Lake Providence on the Mississippi River, the site offers access to 31 states. It is located within 600 miles of Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Atlanta and other major cities. The site even gives automakers room to grow, with an additional 4,000 acres surrounding the core site for expansion or to serve the needs of auto industry suppliers.

In terms of utilities infrastructure, the shovel-ready Franklin Farm site offers an unlimited water supply from the Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer. It also offers 500KV and 115KV electrical transmission lines, as well as 18" and 30" natural gas lines and fiber optic on site. Franklin Farm is well above the 100-year flood plain on Holly Ridge. "We have labor to support a 3,000 to 4,000-person auto assembly plant," says Mary Jo Hanover, business development services coordinator for Louisiana Economic Development.

“We are willing to provide workforce training and we have a governor who is willing to help streamline the approval processes.”

Franklin Farm also benefits from being located in a federally-designated Renewal Community (RC), offering lucrative tax credits and incentives to qualified manufacturers who utilize the property. Areas designated as RC's receive special federal income tax treatment and other incentives of more than \$5 billion in tax credits, until Dec. 31, 2009.

Other recipients of the award included City of Danville Office of Economic Development; Danville, Virginia; City of Gallatin EDA; Gallatin, Tennessee; City of Oshawa Development Services Department; Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; and Rankin First Economic Development Authority; Brandon, Mississippi. Awards were also given in the areas of aerospace, biotech, logistics, warehouse/distribution, food processing and medical and can be viewed at <http://www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com>. Expansion Solutions Magazine is a bi-monthly publication distributed to 20,000 in 48 states and is designed to inform key site selection consultants and corporate real estate brokers about progressive communities and the benefits that are offered by each community.

You are invited to link http://www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com/2008_automotive_awards to review the winners.