

April 1, 2003

Nissan supplier to hire over 200 workers

By Lucy Weber

lweber@mcherald.com

A Jackson company that has partnered with a Smyrna, Tenn., firm as a Nissan supplier plans to hire 204 workers for its facility on the vehicle assembly's campus.

IMS Autrans LLC will be "progressively hiring hourly employees," said Bob Landis, who will serve as general manager of the 300,000- square-foot facility.

The provider of automotive logistics services is a joint venture of IMS (Integrated Management Services) in Jackson and Autrans, a supplier at the Nissan plant in Tennessee.

"What Nissan did was team local companies with experts," said John Calhoun, chief executive officer of IMS.

IMS will keep its 63 employees at its office in the Plaza Building at 120 Congress St. in Jackson while expanding with more than 200 new workers at the Canton plant, Calhoun said.

Interested employees can apply for jobs through the state employment offices.

Last week IMS Autrans received a \$630,000 community development block grant through the state. The Madison County Board of Supervisors served as a conduit for the money to pass from the state to the company.

Kim Stagg, an attorney for Nissan North America out of Smyrna, thanked the county officials Friday for their help in getting the grant for the company. "The county's been very supportive of Nissan," she said.

"This will allow the project to move forward," Calhoun said, adding the grant will be used for "working capital and equipment."

The company provides multiple services to the auto industry, Landis said. "Nissan is our most important customer."

Calhoun said IMS Autrans provides logistics services and light sub-assembly operations for suppliers. The company will supply some assembly services for suppliers that send their product to the Nissan plant from out of state, he said.

The Nissan-based company already has two suppliers on site, Landis said. The company will eventually house five main tenants and 10 prepaid suppliers.

"We're providing employees to our employee tenants," said Ameder Danzy, Calhoun's representative at the Canton plant site.