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**Sara Lee Distribution Center Opening August 2006**



It's not just pie in the sky. Sara Lee announces plans to locate a 213,000 square foot refrigerated/cooler distribution center at the I-75 Business Park in Macon, Georgia. The \$23 million facility will employ 75 – 100 initially and up to 140 in the first year. The Tippmann Group, Fort Wayne, IN, will construct the facility and Sara Lee Food & Beverage expects to occupy by August 1, 2006.

Larry Rogers, Vice President of Integrated Logistics, Sara Lee Food & Beverage made the announcement at a groundbreaking ceremony at the site, saying, "After researching sites along the I-75 corridor between Atlanta and Macon, we chose this site not only because of its location and the package put together by Macon's economic development group, but also because of their enthusiasm for the project and their willingness to work with us on a fast-track schedule."

The new facility will represent a \$24 million investment and will distribute both frozen and refrigerated Sara Lee meat and bakery products to the Southeast market. This will be the first dedicated distribution center in Georgia for the Downers Grove, IL, company.

"Georgia's pro-business climate continues to attract great companies like Sara Lee," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "Our state's wide array of resources, skilled workforce and partnerships with local communities give Georgia a competitive edge for businesses seeking to invest and grow."

Charles Bishop, Chairman of the Bibb County Commission, praised Sara Lee and the Tippmann Group for their investment in Macon and Bibb County. "Sara Lee will be a great addition to this community and to the region. "This announcement will be the first of many in the I-75 Business Park," according to Bishop.

"The I-75 Business Park has been designated a Site of Regional Significance," stated Frank Amerson, Chair of the Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority. "Developed in partnership with the Authority and the Macon Water Authority this park is another example of how this community comes together to create jobs for our citizens and new investment." The facility is the first announced project in the 350 acre Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority Park.

"The Macon Economic Development Commission is proud to welcome Sara Lee Food & Beverage to our community. When Frank Amerson, as Chair of the Macon Water Authority, began developing the park we knew it would yield great results. This announcement further strengthens our position as a great location for Logistics and Warehouse," stated Steve Kruger, Chair of the Macon Economic Development Commission.

The Macon Economic Development Commission is the public private agency responsible for economic development recruitment in Macon and Bibb County.