



Pictured From Left: Mark Ishee (Vice President-Pavement Preservation-EAE); J. Baxter Burns II (President-EAE); Ben C. Cox (Fellowship Recipient); Isaac L. Howard (MSU Faculty Member)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc., (EAE) announced on 1/13/12 the establishment of the Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship in Construction Materials for Mississippi State University's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

Ben C. Cox, the recipient of the fellowship, will participate in the university's four year direct admit program to earn both a master's degree and doctorate in engineering focusing on Construction Materials. "Ergon has been a huge blessing to me," said Cox, "I'm very grateful to be given the opportunity to be a part of this program." As part of the fellowship, Ben will study bituminous binders and work up to twelve weeks with EAE in areas relevant to his studies.

"This fellowship is a great opportunity for Mr. Cox, Mississippi State, and for Ergon as well," said Mark Ishee, Vice President – Pavement Preservation for Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions. "Ben's research will directly apply to the pavement preservation technology we use today."

Dr. Isaac L. Howard, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Mississippi State University, said the fellowship would be instrumental in expanding the university's materials engineering program. "While this is a PhD program, its existence will have a trickling down effect from graduates to freshmen, demonstrating that this is a viable career path available to them," he said. "This program puts Mississippi State in a competitive position on a national level. We can now compete with other major engineering schools for the most talented PhD candidates."

Ergon and Mississippi State University have a longstanding relationship. "We're thankful to have an institution like Mississippi State that produces such high-quality engineers," said Ishee, "Ergon wholeheartedly believes in keeping Mississippi talent in Mississippi." Leslie B. Lampton, founder and CEO of Ergon, Inc., said, "I'm incredibly thankful for Mississippi State University. They have honored me personally with an honorary engineering degree, and we have an entire room full of their graduates working with our company. I'm sure we'll see many more here in the years ahead."

ABOUT ERGON ASPHALT & EMULSIONS, INC.

Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc., is an Ergon, Inc. subsidiary and operates as an asphalt and emulsion producer and marketer. It specializes in the development of superior engineered paving and preservation products. Ergon, Inc., is a privately held company and operates under six primary business segments: Refining & Marketing, Asphalt & Emulsions, Transportation & Terminaling, Oil & Gas, Embedded Computing and Real Estate.

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