



PRESS RELEASE

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Master Boat Builders Expands Shipbuilding Operations with \$7.8 Million Investment in Mobile County



CODEN, Ala. – Master Boat Builders, Inc. (Master Boat), an internationally recognized vessel and workboat manufacturer, today announced that it has invested \$7.8 million to modernize and expand its shipbuilding operations in Mobile County by adding a new fabrication shop and floating drydock.

The expansion project creates 85 new jobs, adding to Master Boat’s skilled workforce of more than 300 workers and further contributes to Mobile County’s strength in shipbuilding and maritime services.

“This investment is about more than just expanding our ability to build more high-quality vessels. It underscores our commitment to increasing American shipbuilding capacity and we’re doing it right here along America’s Gulf Coast in Mobile County,” said **Garrett Rice**, President of Master Boat Builders. “By modernizing our facilities and growing our skilled workforce, we’re positioning our team to deliver critical vessels that support U.S. commerce and industry, all while training the next generation of American shipbuilders.”

“Mobile’s maritime industry continues to thrive, and Master Boat’s investment underscores our region’s leadership in shipbuilding,” said **Bradley Byrne**, Mobile Chamber president and CEO. “By creating new jobs, retaining existing ones and investing in workforce development, this project is a powerful example of how our business community is growing alongside our thriving port and maritime economy.”

The expansion includes the construction of a new fabrication building, a floating dry dock to support new harbor tug contracts, workforce training initiatives and infrastructure improvements.

“Master Boat Builders is a 45-year-old, third generation, locally owned shipbuilder located in the Bayou. They have employed thousands of people over that span from local communities and currently employ over 300 people. If we can’t incentivize and support the growth of a business like Master, we shouldn’t be incentivizing anyone!” said District 3 Mobile County Commissioner **Randall Dueitt**. “This expansion not only secures and creates jobs for local families, but it also reinforces the fact that Mobile County is a leader in shipbuilding and maritime innovation and will be for years to come.”

This project also supports the region’s ongoing workforce development and training initiatives, reflecting the growing demand for skilled talent within the maritime and shipbuilding sectors.

“Master Boat’s expansion highlights the continued momentum of Alabama’s maritime industry and reinforces Mobile County’s position as a hub for shipbuilding and repair,” said **Ellen McNair**, Secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce. “This investment not only creates quality jobs but also strengthens the region’s capacity to support a vital sector of our state’s economy.”

Work on this expansion began October of 2024 and is expected to be fully operational by October of this year.

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About Master Boat Builders

Established in 1979, Master Boat Builders is an internationally recognized vessel and workboat manufacturer. Over the past 45 years, the company has built and delivered over 450 vessels to customers all over the world, including tugboats, offshore supply vessels, fishing vessels, and dive support vessels. The shipyard manufactures boats for major corporations, maritime industry operators, fishing businesses, and individuals with a focus on quality, reliability, utilization, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

About the Mobile Chamber

The Mobile Chamber is a private business organization with nearly 1,700 members and the economic developer for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. Over the last decade, Mobile's economic development efforts have created 8,868 new jobs, retained 692 existing jobs, recruited 30 new businesses and expanded 69 area companies. Capital investments for projects have topped \$5.8 billion. These economic development achievements are supported by public and private investors through the Chamber's Partners for Growth campaign. Additional information is on the Chamber’s [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).