

# BUSINESS & MONEY

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## Corinth welcomes new electronics maker

■ **Ayrshire Electronics bought ACT Electronics last week, saving 200 jobs.**

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CORINTH – Gov. Haley Barbour fulfilled a promise on Tuesday that he made to the owner of Ayrshire Electronics' Corinth plant: that he would personally come to speak to employees.

"This is the first time a sitting governor has visited this facility," Milo D. Bryant told about 200 employees during the af-

ternoon meeting.

Bryant is chairman and CEO of Ayrshire Electronics, which last week bought the assets of ACT Electronics in Corinth. ACT had announced two weeks earlier that it would be closing in December. Local officials held out hope that a buyer could be found before then.

### Quick deal

In fact, the deal was negotiated in about two days, Bryant said, based in large part on a cell phone call between him and the governor.

"I talked with Gov. Barbour a week ago and it affirmed my decision," Bryant said. "That phone call was a deciding factor."

Barbour, on the other hand, credited Bryant for being straightforward in the discussion about what it would take for him to conclude the agreement.

"I told him we would do everything the law allows us to do to keep 200 Mississippians working," Barbour said. "I think the people who work here are going to be working here for a long time. This facil-

ity has always made money, and Milo knew a good deal when he saw one."

Barbour said what he learned about other companies owned by Bryant convinced him that the company will operate for a long time, and the work force is likely to grow.

"The most valuable asset Mississippi has is its human capital, and these people decided to make a big investment in you," the governor told the employees.

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