



Top 8 Products Announced for Mississippi Makers' Challenge

After more than 48,000 votes in the Round of 16 of the Mississippi Makers' Challenge Sponsored by Hancock Whitney, the Mississippi Manufacturers Association announced the products moving on to this week's Round of 8.

Bracket Pod #1

Legendary Lighting's Atlas Gas Lantern (Flowood)

vs.

Cherokee Manufacturing's Safety
Demonstration Trailer (Byhalia)

Bracket Pod #2

Naked Truth Bag from McNeely Plastics (Clinton)

vs.

Kevin Charles Furniture Edgewater
Sectional (New Albany)

Bracket Pod #3

Taylor TM1000 (Clinton)

vs.

LCI 5-Gallon Water Can (Hazlehurst)

Bracket Pod #4

Jones Bones Dog Treats (Ellisville)

vs.

The TWISTER Fence Tool ® &
The BANTAM Fence Tool ® (Forkville)

Over 26,000 votes in the Round of 16 were cast in the final 30 hours of voting. "The participation we saw during the Round of 16 was incredible," said MMA President & CEO John McKay. "We hope we can engage even more Mississippians to vote in the Round of 8 as we continue to highlight the great products manufactured in our state."

The Round of 8 runs today through 3 p.m. Friday, April 1.

Voters may cast one vote for each matchup per day per device.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the contest.

April 4 - April 8: Round of 4

April 13: Awards Luncheon

All voting will be done on the contest's official website, msmakerschallenge.com.

Mississippi Manufacturing Statistics

- Manufacturing employs 145,000 Mississippians, which accounts for 12.6 percent of the state's non-farming workforce and is the third-largest employer
- Manufacturing accounted for \$15.98 billion in real added value to the state's Gross Domestic Product in 2020, which was the highest among private employers
- Mississippi offers a robust community college system with 15 institutions that prepare young adults for skills positions that can save students tens of thousands of dollars in tuition and student loans
- The average manufacturing salary in Mississippi is \$63,226.12