

Material Service Testing Inc.

Rashod Johnson, President

MOVE
ILLINOIS

The Illinois Tollway
DRIVING
THE FUTURE

Taking over Material Service Testing in 2009 in the middle of a recession offered at least one benefit, according to Rashod Johnson – the firm had nowhere to go but up.

Johnson's interest in the field of materials testing began during an internship with the Chicago-based company that would eventually become his own, continuing from his days as a student at St. Ignatius High School in Chicago through his pursuit of a Master of Business Administration at the University of Notre Dame.

When Johnson and his partner Jeff Krozel purchased Material Service Testing from its retiring owner, there were five employees. Today, as a direct result of the firm's work on the Illinois Tollway's *Move Illinois*

Program, the certified minority business enterprise has grown to include a staff of 45 employees providing a comprehensive range of services from on-site field inspection and pavement materials testing to complete

laboratory testing and engineering services. Forty percent of Material Service Testing's workforce is directly involved with *Move Illinois* projects, Johnson said.

2014 was the biggest year for the company since its founding. With continuing multi-year contracts and anticipated future growth, 2015 is proving to be even more prosperous with work scheduled on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project, the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project, the Orland Grasslands South Preserve wetland mitigation project, as well as other projects throughout the Tollway system.

"Thanks to Move Illinois, my company has successfully demonstrated the ability to maintain the highest standards of quality while experiencing rapid growth."



Rashod Johnson (third from right), with staff members at the Material Service Testing Inc. laboratory in Elk Grove Village, is adding new equipment and personnel in response to increasing work on Move Illinois projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOLLWAY'S *MOVE ILLINOIS* PROGRAM,
VISIT WWW.ILLINOISTOLLWAY.COM.