
U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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USTDA GRANT SUPPORTS PORT SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MOROCCO

CASABLANCA (June 8, 2009) – Today, USTDA awarded a grant to the L'Agence Nationale des Ports (ANP), the National Ports Agency of Morocco, to promote port safety and security. The grant will create opportunities for the export of U.S. goods and services by funding a feasibility study on the implementation of a vessel traffic management system and a security/surveillance system (VTMS/security system) at two ports in Morocco.

The \$280,238 grant was conferred in a signing ceremony at ANP's offices in Casablanca. USTDA Country Manager Sarah Shapiro and the Director General of ANP, Mohamed Jamal Benjelloun, signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Moroccan governments, respectively. His Excellency Karim Ghellab, Minister of Transport and Equipment, and Mr. Robert P. Jackson, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, signed as witnesses to the grant agreement.

The Government of Morocco has initiated major reforms to improve the competitiveness of the country's ports. In support of the continuing reforms and increased attention to security needs, AMP is considering the installation of a VTMS/security system at the ports of Casablanca and Safi. VTMS consists of shore-side systems that establish and maintain shipping safety in ports, rivers and coastal waters. The security system will also collect and provide information on suspicious vessels in ports and in coastal regions. The USTDA-funded feasibility study will evaluate and develop the technical specifications for the system.

The opportunity to provide the USTDA-funded assistance to ANP under the grant awarded today will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website. A link to the FBO announcement will be posted on USTDA's website at www.ustda.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions in the FBO announcement. ANP will select the U.S. contractor that will carry out the assistance.

(More)

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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