The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project preparation and partnership building activities that develop sustainable infrastructure and foster economic growth in partner countries.

**USTDA Programs**

USTDA connects U.S. businesses to infrastructure projects in emerging markets, while supporting the development goals of partner countries. The Agency’s objectives are to help build the infrastructure for trade, match U.S. technological expertise with overseas development needs, and help create lasting business partnerships between the United States and emerging markets.

In the energy sector, USTDA advances these objectives through:

- **Feasibility Studies and Technical Assistance**: USTDA provides grants to fund feasibility studies, technical assistance, and other project preparation activities that provide the comprehensive analysis required for energy infrastructure investments to move from the concept stage to the financing and implementation stages.

- **Pilot Projects**: USTDA funds pilot projects in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of U.S. technological solutions and provide the analysis, evaluation, and empirical data that projects need to attract implementation funding.

- **Reverse Trade Missions**: USTDA hosts reverse trade missions (RTMs) to bring decision-makers and project developers to the United States to learn about cutting-edge U.S. technologies and service providers, financiers, policy and regulatory frameworks, and other resources that can support the deployment of new power infrastructure overseas.

**USTDA Liquefied Natural Gas Activities**

**Thailand LNG Receiving Terminal and Power Generation Feasibility Study**

USTDA helped Thailand’s state-owned oil and gas company, PTT, identify the optimum design and specifications for the country’s first liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminal at Map Ta Phut. Thailand’s growing requirements for clean gas fuels created a demand for this facility which also reduces the need for additional coal-based power generation.

USTDA funded a feasibility study for the terminal and the study was conducted by the U.S. firm, Pace Global Energy (Fairfax, VA). The terminal was fully commissioned in 2011 and received its first shipment of LNG later that year.

Map Ta Phut LNG Receiving Terminal in Central Thailand
Lithuania Liquefied Natural Gas Import Terminal Project

In 2009, Lithuania was entirely reliant upon gas imports from Russia. To reduce dependency on long-term Russian supply contracts, USTDA funded a feasibility study for Lithuania’s Ministry of Energy. The study, conducted by SAIC (Reston, VA), determined the viability of an LNG import terminal in Lithuania. The Klaipeda LNG terminal began operations in December 2014 allowing Lithuania to renegotiate its natural gas supply contracts, which generated economic development. Additionally, the opening of the terminal has created a new potential market for U.S.-sourced natural gas.

Trinidad and Tobago LNG Upstream Production and Delivery System

USTDA supported the development of Trinidad’s LNG upstream production and delivery system with a feasibility study that enabled four LNG trains to operate at the site. The study, conducted by Cabot LNG Corporation (Boston, MA), advanced the development of Trinidad’s LNG sector and generated U.S. exports. Additionally, the study led to employee training on new LNG equipment, as well as community and economic growth beyond the LNG trade. Today, Trinidad and Tobago house one of the largest natural gas process facilities in the western hemisphere and, in 2016, Trinidad ranked as one of the top 10 worldwide exporters of LNG. This project has resulted in almost $2 billion in U.S. exports since it was completed, including exports of construction services, drilling equipment, tankers, production platforms, and maintenance contracts.

South Africa Coega LNG Regasification and Power Generation Project

South Africa’s electricity needs are primarily met through a network of coal-fired power plants, though the country continues to experience serious energy shortages. Public and private sector leaders are increasingly looking to LNG for more reliable energy. In 2011, USTDA hosted decision-makers from South Africa’s oil and gas sectors on a visit to the United States which introduced U.S. companies to new opportunities in South Africa’s oil and gas sectors while supporting South Africa’s goal of developing LNG import terminals and power stations. Using information gained from the visit, the South African government has moved forward with plans to develop LNG import terminals with an expected generation capacity of 3,000 megawatts of electricity.

Contact USTDA’s Traditional Energy and Power Team for more information.

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