



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Connecting U.S. companies with export opportunities overseas

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USTDA DIRECTOR NAMED 2013 SMART GRID PIONEER

Recognized for Promotion of U.S. Smart Grid Solutions to Global Electricity Challenges

ARLINGTON, VA – The Honorable Leocadia I. Zak, Director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, has been named one of 50 Smart Grid Pioneers in 2013 by *Smart Grid Today*, a leading trade publication that delivers comprehensive daily reporting on emerging trends, applications and policies driving the modern utility industry. Director Zak, who joins a prestigious list of industry leaders, entrepreneurs, utility executives and regulators, was recognized for leading USTDA’s extensive efforts to promote smart grid deployment in emerging economies around the world.

According to the 2013 Smart Grid Pioneers report, “The success of modernizing and digitizing the power grid around the world depends on the vision, hard work, determination and dedication of the electric power industry’s many stakeholders. Without them, the promise of a smart grid – including economic growth, grid reliability, security, environmental benefits and more – will never be realized.... *Smart Grid Today* recognizes the 50 men and women who we found most compelling in interviews about modernizing the electric grid in the past year.”

The report was released on the same day that Director Zak addressed the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel’s Inaugural Conference: Progress through Collaboration. After highlighting examples of USTDA programs that have opened doors for exports of U.S. smart grid technologies, she encouraged industry leaders to consider opportunities in high-growth overseas markets that are making significant investments in infrastructure development programs.

“Five years from now, I would love to hear that the U.S. companies here today have forged partnerships that have enabled them to become the technology providers of choice in emerging markets, which have enormous potential,” Director Zak said. “By establishing those relationships today, you will ensure that your companies have a place in the world’s leading markets of tomorrow.”

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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 planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.

