



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Linking U.S. businesses to global infrastructure opportunities

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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USTDA HELPS DEVELOP CLEAN ENERGY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Three New Projects Promote Adoption of Innovative Financing Mechanisms and Greener Technologies

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- Today, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency awarded grants to three electricity sector entities in support of their efforts to deploy clean energy solutions in the Dominican Republic. These projects, which represent the Agency's renewed focus on its partnership with the Dominican Republic, will help meet the country's energy demands in an environmentally responsible way.

"USTDA is pleased to promote innovative platforms and state-of-the-art U.S. technologies that can enable greater use of renewable energy generation and increase power reliability in the Dominican Republic," stated USTDA Regional Director Nathan Younge, who witnessed the grant signings by U.S. Ambassador James Brewster, Jr. and representatives of each grantee.

Working with Trace International, one of the key installers of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in the Dominican Republic, USTDA is supporting the development of a third-party financing model for solar PV systems. The technical assistance will help Trace International develop an innovative financing mechanism that will enable large commercial customers to acquire solar PV systems for self-generation. This will unlock a key market segment that has remained relatively untapped and further business opportunities for U.S. companies who have developed solar technologies.

USTDA also provided a grant to Consorcio Energético Punta Cana – Macao, S.A. (CEPM) for a feasibility study and pilot project to assess the technical and economic feasibility of deploying modular electric generators in CEPM's area of concession. This grant will support CEPM's goal of developing a distributed generation system that is capable of providing non-interruptible electricity to hospitals, hotels and other commercial sites. This project continues USTDA's cooperation with CEPM, which last month joined a USTDA-sponsored technical visit to the United States to meet with U.S. companies that offer cybersecurity and access control solutions.

Finally, USTDA is supporting the Coordinating Organization of the National Interconnected Electrical System's (OC-SENI) efforts to evaluate technologies to improve reliability, lower service costs, and allow for real-time monitoring and control of power systems in the Dominican Republic. OC-SENI has initiated upgrades to implement supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) in approximately 40 percent of its system, and requires further technical assistance to proceed with additional upgrades. This project will also assess the needs of all of the Dominican Republic's major generation, transmission and distribution providers.

The opportunity to conduct the USTDA-funded technical assistance with OC-SENI will be competed through Federal Business Opportunities (FBO). A link to the FBO announcement will be posted to USTDA's website at www.ustda.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions in the FBO announcement.

The Fact Sheet below provides additional details about each grant.

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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.

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FACT SHEET ON GRANT SIGNINGS

USTDA signed a grant agreement, in the amount of \$311,856, with Trace International, S.R.L. to develop a third-party financing model for solar photovoltaic systems in the Dominican Republic. Trace is one of the key installers of solar photovoltaic systems in the Dominican Republic and an experienced distributor for SolarWorld (Hillsboro, OR). The objective of the technical assistance is to establish an innovative financing mechanism that will enable large commercial customers – such as the over 140 major hotels in the country – to acquire solar photovoltaic systems for self-generation, thus unlocking a key market segment that has remained relatively untapped to date. Third-party financing, which may take the form of a lease, will allow large commercial establishments to realize the benefits of solar self-generation (e.g., lower electricity bills, improved reliability and a reduced carbon footprint) without having to take on additional debt. Trace has selected Resource Mobilization Advisors (Washington, D.C.) as the contractor. The grant was signed by U.S. Ambassador James Brewster, Jr. and Trace's President, José Hernández Castaños.

USTDA signed a grant agreement, in the amount of \$721,781, with Consorcio Energético Punta Cana – Macao, S.A. (CEPM) for a feasibility study and pilot project to develop a reliable 25-50 kilowatt modular electric generator (MEG). The study will examine the technical, economic and financial feasibility of deploying MEGs in various parts of CEPM's area of concession and beyond. The MEG, which will use a U.S.-made hybrid electric vehicle for its integration platform, will support a wide variety of external generation resources as well as additional batteries and an external fuel tank. CEPM has selected Positive Energies, LLC (Pos-En) (Loveland, CO) as the contractor. Pos-En will configure the MEG to support various levels of electricity availability, starting with 99 percent for non-critical applications through to continuous availability for critical applications. The grant was signed by U.S. Ambassador James Brewster, Jr. and CEPM Executive Director and Vice President Roberto Herrera.

USTDA signed a grant agreement, in the amount of \$573,215, with the Coordinating Organization of the National Interconnected Electrical System (Organismo Coordinador del Sistema Eléctrico Nacional Interconectado, or OC-SENI) to evaluate a series of technologies to improve reliability, control the rising cost of frequency regulation service, allow for real-time monitoring and control, and enable greater adoption of renewable energy. OC-SENI has already initiated system upgrades to implement supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) in approximately 40 percent of its system and requires further technical assistance to proceed with additional upgrades. The technical assistance will also assess the similar needs of all of the Dominican Republic's major generation, transmission and distribution providers. The opportunity to conduct the USTDA-funded technical assistance with OC-SENI will be competed through Federal Business Opportunities (FBO), and interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions in the FBO announcement. The grant was signed by U.S. Ambassador James Brewster, Jr. and OC-SENI General Manager Oscar Pacheco.