



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Linking U.S. businesses to global infrastructure opportunities

NEWS RELEASE

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USTDA SUPPORTS MICROGRID EXPANSION IN HAITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Yesterday, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency awarded a grant to Enèji Pwòp, S.A., a Haitian social enterprise, for a feasibility study to assess and rank the viability of developing pre-pay microgrids in approximately 100 Haitian towns.

“USTDA is pleased to support Haiti’s efforts to increase access to reliable electricity,” said USTDA Regional Director Nathan D. Younge. “Enèji Pwòp’s current microgrid operations and its plans for expansion demonstrate how industry can work with municipalities on innovative solutions to bring affordable power to rural and semi-urban populations.”

The grant was signed by U.S. Ambassador Pamela A. White and Rachel McManus, the President of Enèji Pwòp, at a ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Enèji Pwòp has selected Energy and Security Group – a small, woman-owned firm headquartered in Reston, Va., with extensive experience in energy access – to carry out the feasibility study. The main output from the study will be a detailed preliminary feasibility assessment and ranking of each of the 100 towns based on economics, physical infrastructure and community objectives. By determining the 40 best locations for near-term development of approximately 100-kilowatt microgrids, the study will enable Enèji Pwòp to prepare a fundable investment plan for microgrid expansion in Haiti.

Enèji Pwòp, which will also contribute financial resources toward the study, was founded with the mission of eradicating energy poverty in Haiti. Along with its partner organization EarthSpark International, it has operated Haiti’s first pre-pay microgrid since November 2012 in Les Anglais, using low-cost smart meter technology from U.S. company SparkMeter (Washington, District of Columbia).

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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.