



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Linking U.S. businesses to global infrastructure opportunities

NEWS RELEASE

September 25, 2015

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Anna Humphrey | (703) 875-4357

USTDA SUPPORTS 60 MW SOLAR POWER PLANT IN TANZANIA

ARLINGTON, Va. – Today, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency awarded a grant to NextGen Solawazi Limited to support the development of a 60-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power plant in Shinyanga, a city in northwestern Tanzania. The grant supports a feasibility study that will evaluate the technical and commercial viability of the power plant, conduct environmental and social impact assessments, and provide the necessary analysis for NextGen Solawazi to seek implementation financing. This project is critically important to Tanzania's economic growth as, according to the World Bank, only 15 percent of its population has access to electricity.

"USTDA is pleased to continue our work with NextGen Solawazi to develop renewable energy in Tanzania," said Director Leocadia I. Zak, who signed the grant agreement along with NextGen Solawazi Limited Managing Director Mayank Bhargava. "This project presents a valuable opportunity to draw upon U.S. technical expertise to deploy new energy generation capacity in Shinyanga."

"Tanzania's National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Growth has identified limited power generation capacity and poor electricity access as the most critical issue for development," said Mr. Bhargava. "Energy generation from the solar plant will not only electrify an estimated 210,000 households, but also act as a catalyst to attract other commercial enterprises by providing reliable, plentiful and cheaper electricity."

The feasibility study will be undertaken by U.S. engineering and technical consulting company Clean Energy Consulting & Education, LCC (Phoenix, Ariz.). The project builds upon the Agency's [previous collaboration](#) with NextGen Solawazi, including the provision of an Owner's Engineer who is supporting efforts to build a 5-MW solar plant in Kigoma, Tanzania. Both of these projects advance the goals of Power Africa, a U.S. government-led initiative to add cleaner, more efficient electricity generation capacity across the sub-continent.

###

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.