U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Connecting U.S. companies with export opportunities overseas

USTDA Supports Aviation Development in India
Three new activities build upon cooperative dialogue

New Delhi, India -- USTDA undesrcored the breadth of its engagement in India's aviation market by concluding three grant activities with India's civil aviation agencies that will introduce U.S. technologies and best practices to key aviation stakeholders in India, helping to modernize the country's aviation infrastructure.

During the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on June 24, USTDA Director Leocadia I. Zak announced the Agency's support for a *Performance Based Navigation Project* to assist the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in adopting technologies to increase aviation airspace capacity and energy efficiency. This grant was recently signed in New Delhi by John McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, and V. Somasundaram, Member, Air Navigation Services, AAI. The technical assistance will demonstrate how performance-based navigation procedures can be developed, certified and implemented at three key airports in India.

Director Zak also announced a second phase of the *Technical, Management, and Operational Development Training Program* with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) during the Strategic Dialogue. This grant, which was recently signed by Director Zak and Joint Director General Charan Das of DGCA, will offer industry-based training to enhance DGCA's regulatory and safety capacities. Several U.S. industry leaders have committed to support the program by providing training on a range of new technologies and practices being adopted in international aviation.

Finally, John McCaslin and V. Somasundaram signed a grant to develop and test a prototype Airport Geographic Information System (AGIS) with AAI. The system is capable of storing aeronautical geographic information in an electronic format, which can be updated, edited and shared both internally and externally, increasing overall sector efficiencies. The prototype will be developed and tested at Calicut, a medium-sized airport in India, as a proof of concept for future customization, deployment and application of AGIS technologies for other airports.

The successful U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP), which remains the key driver of collaboration between both countries' public and private sectors, positions U.S. firms to help implement India's aviation infrastructure objectives. Along with the ACP, India's civil aviation agencies and several U.S. government partners, USTDA is hosting the fourth biannual U.S.-India Aviation Summit in Washington, D.C. from October 29-31. The Summit will encourage a high-level dialogue on major issues relating to air traffic management and control in India, and promote U.S. technical solutions to support India's growing aviation market.

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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.

FACT SHEET ON GRANT AND CONTRACT SIGNINGS

USTDA concluded a $600,000 grant agreement to partially fund a Technical Assistance (TA) grant that demonstrates the implementation of modern performance based navigation (PBN) procedures for the Airports Authority of India (AAI). This sole-sourced project was jointly proposed to USTDA by AAI and GE Aviation's wholly owned subsidiary, Naverus Inc., as a top priority for the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP). The objective of this assistance is to demonstrate how PBN procedures can be developed, certified and implemented within the Indian aviation environment. PBN implementation is one of the key tools developed by U.S. aviation companies that offer Indian airport operators the ability to increase flight capacity through the flexible usage of airspace for efficient point-to-point flight operations. Ultimately, the adoption of these procedures improves aircraft reliability, enhances flight safety, mitigates the potential for delays and reduces aircraft emissions. The procedure design process will be piloted by airline operators at airports in Mangalore, Guwahati and Bangalore. Naverus will contribute a cost share of $522,693, or approximately 47 percent of the project's cost.

USTDA also signed a $400,900 grant agreement to partially fund a TA grant to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for Phase II of the Technical, Management and Operational Development Training (TMODT) program under the ACP. Phase II, which will be offered in three parts over a five-month period, will provide DGCA officials and ACP member companies a valuable forum for additional training and interaction to support DGCA's Inernational Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) compliance goals. The first portion of the program engages newly inducted DGCA officials in introductory courses on aviation safety, policy compliance and enforcement, and best practices for auditing techniques. After completeing these courses, the officials will receive additional specialty courses depending on the departments and roles assigned to them. The program's second component features three industry workshops offered by ACP member companies that focus on developing on the job training programs as well as training initiatives for air safety and aircraft engineers. The final component of this TA will develop a matrix of training requirements for specific DGCA job functions.

Finally, USTDA signed a $497,888 grant agreement with AAI to develop and test a prototype Airport Geographic Information System (AGIS). AAI and Hi-Tec Systems, Inc. jointly proposed this sole-source TA project to USTDA as a priority for the ACP. AGIS is capable of storing aeronautical geographic information in an electronic format, which can be updated, edited and shared within AAI as well as with other airports, regulators and contractors in India's civil aviation realm, increasing overall sector efficiencies. The prototype, which is similar to one recently implemented by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, will be developed and tested at Calicut, a medium-sized airport in India, as a proof of concept for future customization, deployment and application of AGIS technologies for other airports in the country. Hi-Tec will contribute a cost share of approximately $76,350.