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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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### **USTDA GRANTS SUPPORTS CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY IN URUGUAY**



U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay Frank E. Baxter (left) and UTE President Dr. Beno Ruchansky (right) shake hands at the signing of the USTDA grant agreement that will fund a study for UTE on the construction of a proposed coal-fired power station.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY (September 27, 2007) – Promoting clean coal technology to meet Uruguay’s demand for power generation is the objective of a USTDA grant to the country’s National Administration for Electric Supply and Transmission (UTE). U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay Frank Baxter and UTE President Dr. Beno Ruchansky signed an agreement that officially conferred the \$419,729 grant, which will fund a study for UTE on the feasibility of a proposed 300 megawatt coal-fired power plant.

At present, 68 percent of Uruguay’s electricity producing capacity is based on hydropower facilities. During times of low rainfall, Uruguay relies on imported electricity from Argentina and Brazil, as well as power produced from thermal units that run on expensive fuel sources, causing high marginal electricity costs.

In order to diversify Uruguay’s energy supply, UTE is studying the development of a coal-fired power plant using clean-coal technology. To support this objective, the USTDA grant will fund an analysis of the fuel supply and related infrastructure and develop the technical and cost specifications for the power plant.

The opportunity to conduct the study for UTE will be competed separately on the Federal Business Opportunities website at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov). Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions contained in the Federal Business Opportunities announcement. UTE will select the U.S. contractor that will carry out the study.

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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