



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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USTDA MISSION WILL EXPLORE MINING SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – (November 27, 2007) USTDA has commissioned a U.S. consultant to travel to Nigeria to explore areas where USTDA may be able to provide grant assistance in support of the development of Nigeria's mining sector. Potential USTDA actions that could result from the definitional mission include technical assistance programs, investment analysis, training activities, and/or orientation visits (reverse trade missions) designed to assist the Government of Nigeria in achieving its developmental objectives in the mining sector.

USTDA is prepared to assist the Government of Nigeria, which has named 2007 as the year of Minerals and Mines, in stimulating interest and investment in the mining sector. Nigeria is known to possess vast mineral deposits and to facilitate growth in this sector, the Government of Nigeria has recently put in place a robust legal and regulatory framework to encourage investment.

USTDA has selected KvH Carbon Incorporated of Plano, Texas, as the U.S. consulting firm that will conduct the mission. After initial research and information-gathering meetings in the United States, KvH Carbon Incorporated will travel to Lagos from December 1 – 7, 2007 to meet with appropriate public and private sector representatives. Meetings will take place with officials from the Nigeria Geological Survey Agency (NGSA), the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD), as well as interested Nigerian mining companies, to identify opportunities for USTDA assistance. Parties interested in presenting opportunities for USTDA funding should contact the U.S. Commercial Service at the American Consulate General in Lagos.

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, 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.