
U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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USTDA PROMOTES THE APPLICATION OF U.S. CLEAN ENERGY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS IN CHINA

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA (September 8, 2009) – Today, USTDA awarded two grants that continue the agency’s support for clean energy and information technology projects in China that represent significant commercial opportunities for U.S. firms. The first grant furthers the objectives of the Obama Administration in the U.S.-China Climate and Clean Energy Partnership by building on previous USTDA success in promoting the use of clean energy technologies in China’s coal mine methane (CMM) sector. A separate grant awarded today will advance food security by fostering the development of a rural land registration program in Anhui Province.

The grants were conferred during a signing ceremony held during the U.S.-China Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum at the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale. USTDA Director for Policy and Program Geoffrey Jackson and Vice Minister of Commerce Ma Xiuhong signed the grants on behalf of the U.S. and Chinese governments respectively.

“These grants are outstanding examples of the way USTDA’s program provides countries with access to U.S. technology and expertise in meeting important development priorities,” said Jackson on today’s grant awards.

China has announced plans to increase coal mine methane use to ten percent of the country’s total natural gas consumption – more than double the amount in 2006. A \$655,185 grant awarded today to the China United Coalbed Methane Corporation (CUCBM) will support this objective by introducing new low-density CMM technologies to China that will strengthen the country’s ability to meet its electric power demands while reducing methane emissions. In particular, the USTDA-funded study will develop a strategic framework for the implementation of the technologies in four provinces - Xinjiang, Shanxi, Guizhou and Yunan - known for their rich coal resources.

The grant builds upon previous USTDA’s success in fostering the development of a 120 megawatt CMM power facility in Jencheng in Shanxi Province. USTDA funded a study that defined equipment specifications and facilitated the evaluation of supplier bids on the project. The study led to approximately \$40 million in U.S. exports that were used in the development of the facility.

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CUCBM has selected Stearns, Conrad and Schmidt Consulting Engineers, Inc. (SCS Engineers) of Concord, Massachusetts to perform the study supported by today's grant. Caterpillar Inc. (Peoria, Illinois) will serve as a sub-contractor to SCS Engineers on the study. In addition to the USTDA grant, SCS Engineers and Caterpillar will provide resources toward the study's completion.

USTDA also awarded a second grant today, in the amount of \$478,440, to the Anhui Agricultural Commission to fund technical assistance in the development of a rural land registration and certification program (RLRCP). China has prioritized the establishment of an RLRCP as key to achieving food security and agricultural growth. Creating certified property rights for citizens is a top priority in Anhui Province, where the economy is dominated by small-scale agriculture. The USTDA grant will further the establishment of an RLRCP by defining the land registry system requirements, developing software configurations and providing public outreach and training to stakeholders.

The Anhui Agricultural Commission has selected International Land Systems Inc. (Silver Spring, Maryland) and its U.S. partners, Trimble Navigation Limited (Sunnyvale, California) and ESRI (Redlands, California), to provide the USTDA-funded assistance. In addition to the USTDA grant, International Land Systems and its partners will provide substantial resources toward the completion of the technical assistance program.

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, feasibility studies, 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.