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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **USTDA SUPPORTS HEALTHCARE IN BULGARIA**

SOFIA, BULGARIA (September 11, 2009) – Today, USTDA awarded a grant to United Medical EAD, a leading private provider of healthcare in Bulgaria, to assist the company in evaluating its expansion plans. This project presents significant opportunities for the export of U.S. goods and services, including the development of modern state-of-the-art small hospital and clinical facilities in Bulgaria.

The \$268,825 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel in Sofia. Chargé d’Affaires John Ordway, from the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, and Executive Director Andrey Markov signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. government and United Medical, respectively. Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Health Valeriy Mitrev, and Senior Commercial Officer Scott Pozil, from the U.S. Commercial Service in Sofia, signed as witnesses to the grant agreement.

"Today's grant represents an opportunity to improve access to high quality healthcare in Bulgaria, while promoting international best practices and the use of modern medical equipment," said Ordway.

The Bulgarian government has placed a high priority on encouraging growth in the availability of private sector health services. United Medical has developed a successful model for clinical services, and seeks to expand its clinic base and develop two new hospitals. The USTDA grant will support this effort by funding a study that will evaluate United Medical’s short-term expansion plans, including the standardization of the company’s facility design and equipment requirements in order to meet international accreditation standards.

The opportunity to conduct the study for United Medical pursuant to the USTDA grant will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website. A link to the FBO posting will be posted on USTDA's website at [www.ustda.gov](http://www.ustda.gov). Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions in the FBO announcement. United Medical will select the U.S. firm that will provide the USTDA-funded assistance.

(MORE)

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 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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