



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Donna Thiessen
(703) 875-4357

USTDA SUPPORTS INDIA'S CIVIL AVIATION EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION AND ANNOUNCES U.S.-INDIA AVIATION SUMMIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 12, 2009) – Today, USTDA award a grant under the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP) to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India. The grant reflects USTDA's strategy of focusing on programs in India that create mutually beneficial relationships for advancing our bilateral relations and opening markets to greater trade by funding a program for the DGCA on aviation sector technology standards and processes.

The \$371,700 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony held in USTDA's Business Center in Arlington, Virginia. USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak and DCGA Director General Dr. Nasim Zaidi signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Indian governments, respectively. The event was also attended by India's civil aviation leaders and U.S.-India ACP member companies and organizations.

At the ceremony, Acting Director Zak also announced plans to hold the second U.S.-India Aviation Summit in Washington, D.C. in late fall and USTDA's intention to award a separate grant to the DGCA on helicopter safety and regulatory frameworks in the near future. "We expect that this second U.S.-India Aviation Summit will help further solidify and expand the exciting technical and commercial partnership our country has with India's growing aviation sector," said Zak. "I am also confident that the grants we are awarding and announcing today highlight a growing working relationship between the Indian and U.S. aviation sectors that will lead to a heightened exchange of technology and knowledge, safety standards, and efficiency."

Permanent Secretary Madhavan Nambiar from India's Ministry of Civil Aviation, who is leading the delegation from India, stated, "On behalf of my government, I am happy to say that the projects and our joint efforts on the upcoming Summit represent a public-private partnership model that is important to our growing relationship under the U.S.-India ACP."

As India's civil aviation regulatory body, the DGCA is responsible for regulating air transport services and for enforcing civil air safety and airworthiness standards. The USTDA grant awarded today will aid in the economic growth and development of India's civil aviation sector by updating aviation standards and regulations.

(More)

Today's grant, the fourth ACP-endorsed activity supported by the USTDA, will support a standards training program to aid in establishing more efficient and reliable processes for engineering and maintaining aerospace products, thereby further opening the Indian aviation market to U.S. goods and services. The training will be conducted by U.S.-India ACP companies and will consist of 21 courses in areas such as air worthiness, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement compliance, and quality management. HEICO Parts Group, Inc. of Hollywood, Florida, will contribute substantial additional resources to the completion of this program.

The ACP was formed in 2007 as a public-private partnership between USTDA, the FAA, and U.S. aviation companies to provide a forum for unified communication between the Government of India and U.S. public and private sector entities in India. The ACP is designed to work directly with the Indian Government to identify and support India's civil aviation sector modernization priorities.

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.

-30-

Visit USTDA's Website at www.ustda.gov