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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **USTDA GRANT PROMOTES AVIATION SAFETY IN GHANA**

ACCRA, GHANA (September 15, 2009) – USTDA awarded a grant today to the Ghana Airports Company, Ltd. (GACL) to help meet the projected demand for aviation services at Kotoka International Airport in Accra. The grant, which was awarded under USTDA’s African Trade Lanes Partnership, will fund technical assistance to GACL in refurbishing the airport passenger terminal. The implementation of the project presents a significant opportunity for the export of U.S. goods and services.

The \$650,000 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy in Accra. Deputy Chief of Mission Julie Furuta-Toy from the U.S. Embassy in Accra and GACL Managing Director Doreen Fianko signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. government and GACL, respectively. USTDA Regional Director for Sub-Saharan Africa Paul Marin and GACL Chairman of the Board Wg. Com. Andy Mensah (Rtd.) signed as witnesses to the grant agreement.

“When President Obama was in Ghana he said that history shows that countries thrive when they invest in their people and in their infrastructure,” said Marin. “This investment will help prepare Ghana to meet increased demand for air traffic in region.”

Ghana has experienced strong increases in air passenger traffic over the past 10 years, with international passenger traffic at Kotoka International Airport growing at double digit rates since 2004. GACL recently completed a 15-year master plan, which projects that the airport will need the capacity to handle 2 million passengers per year, up from 1 million in 2007, by 2024.

“The ongoing growth in air passenger traffic at Kotoka International Airport means that improvements to the passenger terminal are needed to keep capacity in line with usage,” said Fianko.

GACL plans to refurbish the airport passenger terminal and requires the schematics and design documents to determine what goods and services to procure. The USTDA grant will support this effort by funding engineering services and the preparation of documents through the design development phase. In addition to the USTDA grant, GACL will contribute additional resources toward the completion of the assistance.

(MORE)

Today's grant complements a separate USTDA grant awarded earlier this year to the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA). Under that \$295,000 grant, USTDA is funding technical assistance to the GCAA that will include a recommendation on the location and technical specifications for a new Air Traffic Control Center at Kotoka International Airport.

The grant was awarded under USTDA's Africa Trade Lanes Partnership, which was launched in 2008 to promote regional cooperation and connectivity in all modes of transportation, including aviation, maritime, land, and rail.

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

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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