



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Donna Thiessen
(703) 875-4357

USTDA SUPPORTS EXPANDED METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES IN UGANDA

KAMPALA, UGANDA (September 25, 2009) – USTDA awarded a grant to the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment to strengthen the capacity of the Uganda Department of Meteorology (UDM) to make accurate and timely weather information available to a large audience of stakeholders, including agriculture and aviation users. The grant will fund an assessment of Uganda’s forecasting needs and identify the equipment, facilities and staff necessary to meet those goals, thereby creating opportunities for the export of U.S. manufactured goods and services.

U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Jerry P. Lanier and the Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Honorable Sydda Bbumba, signed a grant agreement to confer the \$270,000 grant award.

“As in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the livelihood of many Ugandans is greatly dependent on rainfall,” said Lanier. “Improved weather forecasting will bolster Uganda’s agricultural production by giving farmers access to information that will allow them to plan planting, irrigation and harvesting in a more effective manner.

“Better forecasting will also strengthen aviation services by providing pilots with detailed weather information affecting their flight plans.”

The opportunity to provide assistance to UDM 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. 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.