



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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NEWS RELEASE
August 31, 2010

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**NEW TRACKING SYSTEM TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND
EFFICIENCY AT BRAZILIAN PORTS**

BRASILIA – The large volume of commercial activity transiting each year through Brazil’s thirty-four public ports has lead to logistical challenges for Latin America’s largest economy. To allow for faster and safer movement of commerce and passengers, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) awarded a grant today to the Brazilian Secretariat of Ports (SEP). The grant comes at a time when Brazil is preparing for tremendous increases in passenger transit during the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016.

U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Thomas Shannon said that the \$674,000 grant will fund a feasibility study on the implementation of vessel traffic management systems at four of Brazil’s main ports.

“Improved logistics are needed to minimize the likelihood of vessel collisions and bottlenecks,” said Ambassador Shannon who conferred the USTDA grant for \$674,000 to Brazilian Secretariat of Ports Minister Pedro Brito during a ceremony held at the Secretariat of Ports.

“By improving vessel flow and shortening berthing times, the project will yield environmental benefits by reducing carbon emissions, an Obama Administration priority,” he added.

This is the second initiative USTDA has undertaken with the Secretariat of Ports. SEP was also awarded a grant for an ongoing USTDA intelligent cargo and network port logistics chain technical assistance project that began earlier this year.

The opportunity to conduct the USTDA-funded feasibility study 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 in the announcement. The Brazilian Special Secretariat of Ports will select the U.S. contractor that will complete the feasibility study.

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