



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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USTDA SUPPORTS LOCOMOTIVE REHABILITATION IN ANGOLA

Lusaka, ZAMBIA – USTDA signed a grant with the Angola Ministry of Transport to evaluate the technical, financial, environmental and other critical aspects of restoring 22 locomotives to operation in Angola. USTDA Deputy Director Peggy Philbin signed the grant on behalf of the United States at a grant signing at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum.

“We are very pleased to support Angola’s rail sector,” stated Deputy Director Philbin. “U.S. companies are very interested in these opportunities and this grant will help to support our expanding trade relationship with Angola.”

The \$410,000 grant was conferred at a transportation panel session moderated by USTDA Country Manager Michael DeRenzo. Before signing the grant, Ms. Teresa Vicente Muro, National Director, Office of Studies, Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Transport, highlighted Angola’s plans to restore and expand Angola’s railway infrastructure. Ms. Muro noted the importance of the USTDA grant in ensuring that there will be sufficient locomotive capacity to provide high quality, reliable services throughout the new railway infrastructure.

Angolan Deputy Minister of Trade Augusto Archer de Sousa Mangureira and U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan McDermott witnessed the grant signing.

Angola reopened the Luanda-Malange railway line at the end of 2010, and expects to reopen the Benguela-Luau and Namibe-Menongue lines by the end of 2012. These lines will reconnect rural communities that have been cut off from urban centers for years. It is part of a larger plan to form a unified national railway system and to develop regional interconnections with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia.

The USTDA grant supports the theme of the AGOA Forum of enhancing trade through increased competitiveness, value addition and deeper regional integration. It will also serve to promote food security and economic growth. The USTDA grant forms part of an ever-growing portfolio of projects being developed under USTDA’s African Trade Lanes Partnership. The Partnership aims to develop sub-Saharan Africa’s most vital trade lanes and expand transportation networks to facilitate local, regional, and global trade.

The USTDA-funded feasibility study consultant will inspect the locomotives and make an assessment and plan for their potential refurbishment. The study will also support the participation of local railway workshops in the refurbishment process. This grant activity demonstrates the hallmark of USTDA, which is to provide foreign assistance that is of mutual economic benefit to both the United States and its partner countries.

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 FBO announcement. The Ministry of Transport will select the U.S. contractor that will complete the feasibility study.

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