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USTDA GRANTS PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NIGERIA

LAGOS, NIGERIA – To meet the need for reliable power as a means to develop the private sector, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) furthered its support to Nigeria by awarding over \$850,000 in grants last week to identify clean and sustainable sources of energy.

In a signing ceremony at the U.S. Consulate in Lagos, Nigeria, U.S. Ambassador Robin Sanders conferred a \$404,000 grant to the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) and a \$460,000 grant to LADOL Integrated Logistics Free Zone Enterprise (LiLE). Ambassador Sanders described both grantees' commitments to the innovative use of renewable energy technologies and how these projects reinforce the cooperative relationship between the U.S. and Nigeria.

“These USTDA-funded feasibility studies will assist Nigeria with its efforts to evaluate renewable energy alternatives and create an environment conducive to business and investment,” said Ambassador Sanders after she signed the grants on behalf of the United States. “U.S. technology can be a driving force behind these projects.”

The first grant was awarded to the Digital Bridge Institute to support the expansion of its Oshodi training campus in Lagos. The study will make recommendations on the needed energy and ICT infrastructure required for a Science and Technology Park. The second grant will assist the LiLE as they develop an on-site power plant which will use a combination of renewable energy resources to meet the company's growing electricity needs.

The Digital Bridge Institute, an information and communications technology training center, was established by the Nigerian Communications in 2004 to provide engineers and ICT workers with advanced technology training. DBI's Oshodi campus has several decisive advantages which make it attractive for the development of a Science and Technology Park

“In addition to our on-campus training facilities, DBI has direct access to the SAT-3 undersea fiber optic cable, existing right-of-way for new submarine cables, existing facilities, and direct access to the large and rapidly developing market in Lagos,” said President and CEO Raymond Akwule who signed the grant on DBI's behalf. “We look forward to cooperating with USTDA on this venture.”

LiLE, a private sector logistics provider, offers support services to Nigeria's offshore oil and gas industry from their operating base east of Lagos.

“As LiLE looks to significantly expand the scope of its operations in the face of steadily growing demand, a captive source of clean, reliable, and affordable power solutions is of the utmost importance to the long-term sustainability of LiLE's operations,” said Sarah Jadesimi, LiLE's Executive Manager of the Legal Department, who signed the grant for LiLE. “The recommended solution will likely consist of a hybrid of waste-to-energy, solar, and conventional generation technologies.”

The opportunity to conduct the USTDA-funded feasibility studies for the Digital Bridge Institute and the LADOL Integrated Logistics Free Zone Enterprise 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. DBI and LiLE will select the U.S. contractors that will complete the respective studies.

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The [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](#) advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops to support development of modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's efforts create an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development.