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USTDA Links U.S. Companies to Global Infrastructure Opportunities

Partnering to Power the Future: Supporting Morocco's Solar Energy Sector

As the largest energy importer in the Middle East and North Africa, Morocco depends on fossil fuel imports to generate over 95 percent of its energy. To reach greater energy independence and achieve its goal of producing 42% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020, Morocco is making bold investments to expand wind, solar and hydroelectric power generation capacity by 2 gigawatts (GW) each.

The forecasted growth in Morocco's clean energy sector presents an unprecedented opportunity for U.S. technology and service providers. In fact, the country plans to invest more than \$12.4 billion to expand its solar energy infrastructure by 2020. To support Morocco's ambitious plans and position U.S. firms for success in implementing them, USTDA is working closely with its Moroccan partners to assess and develop project opportunities. Through feasibility studies, technical assistance and reverse trade missions, USTDA is connecting Moroccan project sponsors to U.S. technology and service providers that can help the country expand its electricity generation through renewable resources.

To support the development of a concentrated solar power project in the southern city of Ouarzazate, USTDA provided a technical assistance grant to the Moroccan Solar Agency (MASEN). The grant helped determine the viability of the site housing a CSP tower, and offered recommendations for the equipment to be used in the tower. The CSP tower will have a capacity of 150 MW - a direct result of USTDA's technical assistance support.

Additionally, USTDA provided a technical assistance grant to the Moroccan National Agency for the Development of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ADEREE). The grant supported the development of a 5 MW solar Photovoltaic (PV) pilot project in Essaouira.



Morocco energy officials tour a solar power facility during a USTDA-sponsored reverse trade mission



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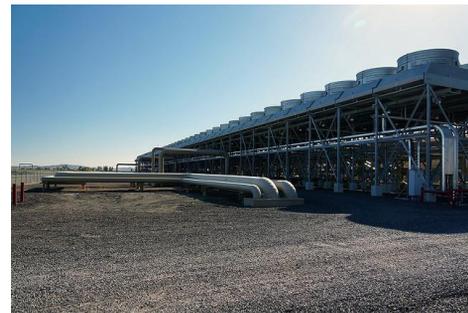
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Through a feasibility study, USTDA supported Morocco's National Company for Transportation and Logistics (SNTL) in designing the layout of a 60,000 m² solar PV rooftop at its Mohammedia logistical center near Casablanca. This rooftop project is expected to produce about 1.5 MW of power and will allow for duplications of the solar PV rooftop throughout SNTL's network to generate 7 MW of capacity. This project is near completion.

To create a model for sustainable sources of energy generation and clean water filtration for up to 60 fishing villages, USTDA awarded a technical assistance grant to the Moroccan National Fisheries Office (ONP). The project analyzed solar PV and small-scale wind applications across six pilot fishing villages, which could be replicated throughout the country.

Additionally, USTDA hosted a delegation of Moroccan decision-makers in the United States to meet with senior executives and experts from leading U.S. solar power companies. The delegates presented their project plans and toured solar power plants to observe the design and demonstration of technologies and services that could advance their country's goals. The delegates also participated in briefings with public and private investment organizations, and met with the U.S. Department of Energy and other relevant U.S. government agencies.

As a result of USTDA's programming, U.S. companies have gained access to key Moroccan stakeholders and learned about specific procurement opportunities in the country. In fact, Nexant, the consulting firm that performed the technical assistance for project in Ouarzazate, has been awarded follow-on contracts with the Moroccan Solar Agency and other government agencies. Additionally, U.S. technology providers, such as First Solar, have indicated that USTDA's export-promotion programs have played a role in their decision to open offices in Morocco.



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