



USTDA

U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Middle East, North Africa, Europe and Eurasia

Linking U.S. Businesses to Global Infrastructure Opportunities

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.

USTDA in MENA/Europe/Eurasia

The Middle East, North Africa, Europe and Eurasia Region will continue to focus on the priority countries of Turkey, Egypt and Jordan, as well as the priority sectors of energy, transportation and telecommunications. The Region will also continue its successful practice of responding aggressively to U.S.-company driven proposals with strong export potential in non-priority countries.

The Middle East and North Africa in particular is a region of the world confronted by challenges, which serve as substantial constraints to economic development. Despite these challenges, the region also presents opportunities for viable investment solutions. U.S. companies continue to recognize significant opportunities to invest in the region, including in infrastructure development projects. USTDA has supported many important projects in the region that have contributed to advancing critical infrastructure development projects while also generating U.S. exports.

Clean Energy

USTDA's early project preparation assistance laid the groundwork for the recent inauguration of a 52.5 MW solar power facility in Ma'an, Jordan. Working together with Kawar Energy, a private Jordanian energy company and Colorado-based CH2M Hill, USTDA's support provided the justification for commercial financing of the largest private sector power project in the region. Arizona-based First Solar was selected as the project's Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor, and was chosen to supply technology for the project. The Shams Ma'an Solar Power Generation Plant is near completion and expected to be commissioned soon.

The plant, which accounts for approximately 1 percent of Jordan's total energy generation capacity, produces clean electricity using over 600,000 modules manufactured by First Solar. Ma'an's unique design allows the facility to generate up to 20 percent more energy than standard fixed solar power facilities.



Kawar Energy developing the Ma'an region for construction of a 52 MW solar power facility.



Jordanian workers installing solar power facility in Ma'an Jordan.



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Leveraging Partnerships for Win-Win Results

Smart Cities and Smart Grid

As Istanbul is growing rapidly, with a population expected to surpass some of the largest European cities by 2020, local leaders are planning ahead and making investments to prepare for this growth.

USTDA awarded a grant to the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IBB), providing technical assistance to improve city operations, enhance crisis and disaster management, and deliver efficient, reliable public services for Istanbul residents. The project will focus on procuring advanced IT solutions and developing a cloud-based environment capable of aggregating data from existing municipal databases.

Recently, USTDA built upon its extensive smart grid programming in Turkey by funding an Automated Demand-Side Management Pilot Project that will showcase two complementary technologies from U.S. companies. In Jordan, USTDA funded two reverse trade missions to advance the implementation of three smart grid feasibility studies nearing completion.

Transportation

USTDA supported a pilot project to demonstrate how technology could improve the flow of freight traffic at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan's sole seaport. That project, led by U.S. technology provider NTELX (Vienna, Virginia), established 'Nafith,' the National Freight Information Transportation Hub. Nafith was created to provide a data-driven system to enhance the efficiency and security of Jordan's transport and trade sectors. By utilizing NTELX's technology, Nafith has become one of Jordan's leading intelligent transportation providers.

One of Nafith's top successes has been its Truck Control System (TCS) – the largest e-government system in Jordan. The TCS minimizes wait times by processing trucks quickly and smoothly through the Port of Aqaba and its terminals. The TCS has helped to synthesize information from several industry and government databases, ultimately decreasing transportation costs by an estimated 20%. The TCS has also reduced congestion and pollution, and even helped to prevent accidents.

Using Jordan as a model, Nafith has expanded its efforts to new markets – it recently launched a similar effort in Iraq, building and managing a system to process trucks passing through three ports in the Basra region, and across the Kuwaiti border.



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