



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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USTDA ANNOUNCES COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF VIETNAM

Builds on Past Success as NPT Strengthens its Power Grid

HANOI, VIETNAM – Director Leocadia I. Zak announced approval of a technical assistance program for the National Power Transmission Corporation of Vietnam (NPT) to assist NPT in developing a new information technology (IT) and smart grid roadmap. In order to manage its transmission infrastructure, NPT is planning on modernizing its legacy IT systems and implementing smart grid technologies that will allow it to efficiently keep pace with the rapid increase in generation capacity and electricity demand that is fueling Vietnam’s economic growth.

The program will link a team of U.S.-based experts from Tangible International of Virginia with NPT to expand and modernize Vietnam’s electrical grid. In addition to helping NPT develop the IT architecture for its smart grid implementation, the Tangible International team will assist NPT design a telecommunications system that will enable the power company to identify and react to time-sensitive transmission situations on its large electric grid.

“USTDA is proud to support this dynamic information technology and smart grid roadmap project with the National Power Transmission Corporation,” stated Director Zak. “I am excited to see the outcomes of this new system, once implemented, that will enable NPT to effectively manage time-sensitive situations like line congestion or power fluctuations in order to better respond to its customers’ needs.”

This project is the second recent partnership between USTDA and NPT. In 2011, USTDA hosted a delegation of officials from NPT on a visit to the United States to learn about U.S. power transmission technologies. The visit was designed in response to NPT’s request to introduce their employees to U.S. service and technology providers in the energy sector, particularly smart grid solutions. Since that visit, GE and NPT signed a contract for GE’s capacitor banks, which will effectively double Vietnam’s existing power capacity through the upgrade of the Pleiku–Phu Lam transmission line -- the backbone of Vietnam’s North-to-South power transmission network.

Director Zak is in Vietnam to co-host the U.S.-ASEAN Smart Grid Workshop with NPT. During her visit, she is also joining Under Secretary of Commerce Francisco Sanchez as part of the infrastructure trade mission. These two events coincide with the recent launch of the *U.S.-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Initiative* at the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders Meeting held in Indonesia in November 2011.

The *Connectivity Cooperation Initiative* is leveraging U.S. private sector resources and expertise to support activities such as reverse trade missions, feasibility studies, technical assistance and workshops that foster effective new partnerships between private sector and government entities to increase connectivity and investment in the energy, transportation, and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors. The *Connectivity Initiative* is designed to support ASEAN’s goal of fostering greater connectivity to achieve an economically integrated ASEAN Community by 2015.

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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.

