
U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Donna Thiessen
(703) 875-4357

USTDA GRANT SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN COLOMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – (September 20, 2007) Fostering the development of Colombia’s geothermal energy resources to meet the nation’s growing demand for power is the goal of a USTDA grant to ISAGEN S.A. E.S.P., a leading Colombian power company. USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak and ISAGEN General Manager Luis Fernando Rico Pinzón signed an agreement that officially conferred the \$599,310 grant, which will be used to determine the most viable site to develop a 50 megawatt geothermal power generation plant.

Currently, hydropower facilities represent two-thirds of Colombia’s installed power generation capacity and supply 80 percent of the demand. However, hydroelectric power has become increasingly unreliable due to the effect of the El Niño meteorological phenomenon on the Amazon River Basin, which has experienced prolonged periods of drought conditions. In order to diversify Colombia’s power supply and limit the emissions from carbon-intensive gas and coal electricity generation plants, ISAGEN is committed to developing geothermal power sources. To support this objective, the USTDA grant will fund an analysis of five prospective sites and determine the most advantageous location for the construction of the proposed geothermal plant.

The opportunity to conduct the analysis for ISAGEN under the USTDA grant will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fbo.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions contained in the Federal Business Opportunities announcement. ISAGEN will select the U.S. firm that will provide the USTDA-funded assistance.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA’s strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.