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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **USTDA SUPPORTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM MODERNIZATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – Developing a national emergency response management system in the Dominican Republic is the objective of a USTDA grant awarded yesterday to the Department of Planning and Programs (DPP) of the State Secretariat of the Interior and Police (SEIP). The grant represents the latest component of the agency’s CAFTA-DR Trade Integration Initiative, which focuses on taking advantage of the new trade opportunities offered by the free trade agreement.

U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic Hans H. Hertell signed an agreement officially conferring the \$600,000 grant during a ceremony held yesterday at SEIP. SEIP Secretary Franklin Almeyda signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic. USTDA Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean Anne McKinney was present at the signing ceremony.

The USTDA-funded study will develop the design of an integrated ICT-based system with the capacity to process emergency calls in real-time, deliver location information and other critical data, and provide computer-aided dispatch. A modern emergency response system in the Dominican Republic would contribute to increased public safety, which would enhance the country’s investment and tourism climates.

The opportunity to conduct the USTDA-funded study for DPP will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov). Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions contained in the Federal Business Opportunities announcement. DPP will select the U.S. contractor that will conduct the study.

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.

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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.

-30-

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