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# U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**USTDA GRANT PROMOTES MARITIME SECURITY IN PANAMA**

*\$331,341 Grant Assists Government of Panama in Meeting  
International Maritime Security Standards*

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA – Today, USTDA renewed its commitment to Panama’s long-term economic growth through support of a program to strengthen the country’s maritime security. As maritime activity dominates Panama’s transportation sector and represents twenty percent of the country’s gross national product, the importance of the maritime sector to continued economic development is critical. The USTDA grant awarded to the Panama Maritime Authority (Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, AMP) will fund early investment analysis on a proposed port and maritime sector monitoring and control center designed to help Panama advance its maritime security strategy and further the objectives of the U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement.

“We are pleased to support the AMP in its efforts to enhance safety and security in Panamanian waters and at its ports,” said USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak. “We believe that these efforts to more efficiently control the flow of maritime traffic will also enhance Panama’s economy.”

A signing ceremony was held at AMP Headquarters in Panama City to confer the grant as part of this week’s visit by [a U.S. delegation led by Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters](#). USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak, who is in Panama as a member of the U.S. delegation, and Ruben Arosemena Valdés, Second Vice President of Panama and AMP Administrator signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Panamanian governments, respectively. Secretary Peters was present at the grant signing ceremony.

The USTDA grant awarded today directly responds to Panama’s interest in implementing security measures that meet international standards. Specifically, the assistance will outline the requirements and specifications, including procedures, programs, interfaces, equipment and all other ancillary functions and facilities, which are necessary to implement the center. The establishment of a port and maritime sector monitoring and control center will help AMP manage the compliance of the entire Panamanian maritime sector while more effectively, efficiently and safely processing increasing volumes of commercial cargo and vessel traffic that is expected as a result of the recently concluded U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement negotiations.

(More)

The opportunity to perform the study for AMP 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. AMP 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. 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.

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