



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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USTDA SUPPORTS THE UPGRADE AND EXPANSION OF MOROCCO'S WEATHER RADAR NETWORK

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO – Fostering the capacity of the Moroccan government to predict and mitigate the effects of natural disasters is the goal of a USTDA grant awarded today to the National Meteorology Department (DMN). The grant will fund a feasibility study on the installation of an upgraded and expanded national weather radar network to increase coverage throughout Morocco.

The \$350,000 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy in Casablanca. The grant agreement was signed by U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Thomas T. Riley and DMN Director Mustapha Geanah, on behalf of the U.S. and Moroccan governments, respectively.

Recent weather phenomena in Morocco have had tremendous negative effects on the country, causing millions of dollars in damage and adversely impacting both the quality of life and economic development. Accurate weather and flood forecasting is especially important for Morocco because of its strategic location between Europe, Africa and the Middle East, as well as its extended coastline along the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, the Moroccan government has prioritized the expansion of radar coverage in the country.

The USTDA grant awarded today will assist the DMN in evaluating a proposed weather radar network that would enable Moroccan authorities to more effectively monitor meteorological and flood zone conditions, provide adequate advance warning to threatened populations, and ensure that any response is based on the best possible information. This system also has the potential to help protect the Moroccan economy, particularly from shocks caused by disruptions in the agricultural sector.

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

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