



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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USTDA GRANT PROMOTES RAILWAY SAFETY IN EGYPT



Amer M. Kayani (standing), Regional Senior Commercial Officer for Egypt, Lebanon & Libya, looks on as U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Francis J. Ricciardone (left) and His Excellency Mohammed Mansour (right), Minister of Transport, sign the USTDA grant agreement.

CAIRO, EGYPT – Improving safety standards in Egypt’s railway sector in response to a recent increase in train accidents is the goal of a USTDA grant awarded today to the Egyptian Ministry of Transport (MOT). The \$600,000 grant will be used to design a national traffic management master plan and assist in the creation of an independent railway safety oversight and enforcement authority to monitor compliance with safe operating practices.

A signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Transport to confer the USTDA grant. U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone and Minister of Transport Mohammed Mansour signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Egyptian governments, respectively.

Today’s grant is part of a larger U.S. effort to assist Egypt in establishing stronger safety measures in order to help prevent future railway accidents. Investigations into the causes of recent accidents in the rail sector have shown aging and faulty safety mechanisms to be partly responsible. The creation of a traffic management master plan under the USTDA grant will increase rail safety by optimizing the safe movement of trains across the rail network in Egypt in a manner that is consistent with safety rules, satisfies operating requirements, and achieves business objectives.

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

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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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