



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2007

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USTDA PROMOTES PARTNERSHIPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — Assisting Rand Water Services (Pty) Ltd. (RWS) in bringing state of the art U.S. technologies into the South African water services market is the focus of a USTDA-funded technical assistance program announced today. The USTDA assistance will include supporting RWS in identifying appropriate U.S. technologies for the market and sponsoring a visit by RWS officials to the United States to help the company develop strategic partnerships with U.S. technology providers.

A ceremony to announce the technical assistance program was held at Rand Water headquarters in Johannesburg. The Honorable Eric M. Bost, U.S. Ambassador to South Africa; Dr. Maki Mandela, RWS Director of the Board; and Mr. Reginald Max, RWS Managing Director, were present at the announcement.

South Africa is a water-stressed country, with less than 1,700 cubic meters of water per person per year. As such, it is critical for the nation to have highly efficient water services infrastructure in place, particularly as it works to meet the aggressive targets set by the government for economic growth and the provision of basic services. The technical assistance program announced today is part of a broad effort by the U.S. Government to assist South Africa in meeting its infrastructure and basic services needs by facilitating commercial partnerships between leading U.S. and South African companies, such as RWS.

RWS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rand Water, was established to provide business support, technology, consulting, advisory, and capacity-building services for water infrastructure related projects in South Africa and throughout Africa. Rand Water is a water board established under the Water Services Act, whose main shareholder is South Africa's Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

A U.S. business briefing will be scheduled during the visit to provide companies with an opportunity to meet with the RWS officials and discuss specific technologies. Companies interested in scheduling specific visits by the South African delegates to their U.S. facilities should contact USTDA Country Manager Ursula Iszler at (703) 875-4357 or USTDA Africa Business Development Manager Doug Shuster in Johannesburg at +27 (11) 778-4800.

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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, 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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