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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### USTDA GRANT SUPPORTS METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL MONITORING IMPROVEMENTS IN CROATIA



USTDA Country Manager Andrea Lupo (far left) looks on as U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Robert Bradtke (second from left) and MHS Director Ivan Cacic (third from left) sign a USTDA grant agreement funding the development of a plan to modernize Croatia's ability to forecast and react appropriately to impending weather conditions.

ZAGREB, CROATIA – Strengthening the Republic of Croatia's ability to forecast and react appropriately to impending weather conditions is the goal of a USTDA grant awarded today to the Meteorological and Hydrological Service (MHS). The grant will be used to help the MHS develop a comprehensive plan to modernize Croatia's national meteorological and hydrological observational networks and other weather, water and environmental monitoring and forecasting infrastructure.

The \$495,760 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony at the Meteorological and Hydrological Institute in Zagreb.

The Honorable Robert Bradtke, U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, and Mr. Ivan Cacic, MHS Director, signed the agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Croatian governments.

Adverse weather, flooding activity and environmental problems cost the Croatian economy around \$218 million annually, severely impacting the quality of life of the country's citizens and economic development. Accurate weather and flood forecasting is especially important for Croatia because of its strategic location on the Balkan Peninsula and its extended coastline on the Adriatic Sea, which is well known for the rapid onset of very dangerous weather conditions. The mountainous terrain also exacerbates flooding conditions. As a result, the MHS is looking to expand its meteorological and hydrological monitoring capabilities.

The opportunity to provide assistance to the MHS under the USTDA grant will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov). U.S. firms should submit proposals following the instructions in the Federal Business Opportunities announcement. The MHS will select the U.S. firm that will provide the assistance.

(More)

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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