



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Donna Thiessen
(703) 875-4357

USTDA GRANT PROMOTES RURAL ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION AND HYDROPOWER GENERATION IN ANGOLA

LUANDA, ANGOLA – Increasing Angola’s electricity production in support of the country’s economic growth and development is the goal of a USTDA grant awarded today to the Angolan Ministry of Energy and Water Affairs (MEWA). The \$626,850 grant will be used to develop master plans for two interior cities, Cuchi and Luena, to implement a modern electricity distribution system with increased generation capacity from small hydroelectric plants.

A grant agreement was signed to officially confer the grant. The Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Luanda, Francisco Fernandez, and the National Director of Energy of the Ministry of Energy and Water Affairs, Francisco Talino, signed the agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Angolan governments, respectively.

The rehabilitation and expansion of Angola’s electricity distribution network is critical for the country’s economic development and political stability. Angola’s existing electricity infrastructure was largely built prior to the country’s independence in 1975. The ensuing civil war damaged much of this established infrastructure, which suffers now from a lack of regular maintenance and general disrepair. Current electricity service extends to only a fraction of the population, estimated at 15 percent, and the grid networks experience frequent outages due to problems in transmission and generation.

The USTDA grant awarded today will be used to fund technical assistance in the preparation of two electricity distribution master plans for the cities of Cuchi and Luena. These cities have been designated as development priorities by the Angolan government due to the severe damage and neglect that they suffered during the past decades of civil war.

In addition to the electricity distribution master plans, the technical assistance program will include pre-feasibility studies for two mini-hydroelectric projects at Kaquima and Chafinda, which are located near Cuchi and Luena, respectively. It is anticipated that the rehabilitation and modernization of the distribution systems in these cities, which could result from the USTDA-funded assistance, could be used as a model for isolated regions throughout Angola.

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The opportunity to provide technical assistance to MEWA under the grant awarded today will be competed on the *Federal Business Opportunities* website at www.fedbizopps.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions contained in the *Federal Business Opportunities* announcement. The Ministry of Energy and Water Affairs will select the U.S. contractor that will conduct the technical assistance program.

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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