The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (“USTDA”) is an independent Federal agency that provides financing to U.S. firms undertaking infrastructure projects in developing and emerging markets. The broad mission is to encourage development by linking the U.S. private sector with critical infrastructure activities.

USTDA normally supports projects that have received, or are likely to receive, financing from other groups such as multilateral development banks (e.g. the Inter-American Development Bank) or other U.S. government development and export agencies such as OPIC, which focuses on political risk insurance and financing for U.S. foreign direct investment, or the Ex-Im Bank, which concentrates on financing for particular export transactions.

The agency focuses on activities in large-scale infrastructure projects including: aviation; electricity transmission; traditional and renewable energy; and transportation. Projects in high-income countries are not eligible for funding. The agency currently works in 66 countries with a budget of $41 million. Only U.S firms are eligible for funding.

USTDA operates primarily through two major programs: The International Business Partnership Program and the Project Development Program. The criteria for selecting funding projects for these programs is based around assessing the priority to the recipient country, likelihood of cost sharing, labor and environment considerations, and the possible mutual economic benefit for both countries. The USTDA funds are intended for project identification, investment analysis, trade capacity building, and sector development.

*International Business Partnership*

The International Business Partnership Program is a three-pronged initiative intended to connect U.S. firms with foreign buyers. The partnership accomplishes this through reverse trade missions, conferences and workshops, and training seminars. In addition, the program seeks to promote the inclusion and export capacity of small U.S. businesses for the betterment of the U.S. economy.

The International Business Partnership also hosts a special initiative called Making Global Local. Making Global Local connects local communities and cities across the country with USTDA’s export-promoting programs. Partner organizations will be able to interact with USTDA foreign sponsors.
Project Development Program
The Project Development Program is more focused in identifying the overseas sponsor and then funding them to select a U.S. company for a development activity. The USTDA defines an overseas sponsor as “a local entity, public or private, with the decision-making authority and ability to implement a project.” Much of these projects tend to target clean energy, energy efficiency, transportation, information and communications, and environment sectors.

The Project Development Program only funds certain activities for a development project, primarily in regards to preparation prior to implementation. Approved funding activities include feasibility studies and analyses, pilot projects, and technical assistance. The foreign sponsor must choose a U.S. company to carry out any of these activities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The website and Project Sponsor Primer direct potential sponsors (foreign businesses, organizations, and governments) to information on how to work with the USDTA and connect with U.S. businesses.


The USTDA Annual Reports showcase the accomplishments of the USTDA and overviews the budget and grants for the previous year.


The Business Opportunities portion of the website lists the USTDA Requests for Proposals available.

Other Publications and Resources: [http://www.ustda.gov/pubs/](http://www.ustda.gov/pubs/)

This section of the site provides sample grant documents, newsletters, library holdings and other research.

For Foreign Governments

This initiative is dedicated to assisting public officials in foreign countries to better understand the costs of ownership for procurement of U.S. goods and services related to infrastructure projects.

For Domestic and International Businesses

Provides guidance to U.S. business on how to work with the USTDA.
Helps small businesses seeking to expand in international trade.