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MEDIA INQUIRIES: Anna Humphrey | (703) 875-4357

USTDA TO HIGHLIGHT #INDIASMARTCITIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN FEBRUARY

ARLINGTON, Va. – This month, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency will utilize #IndiaSmartCities to highlight its support for the development of smart cities in India. Over the next five years, India is expected to invest almost \$1 trillion into infrastructure projects that develop clean energy, airports, ports, rail and freight. USTDA will leverage social media platforms as a means to link U.S. firms to upcoming these and other export opportunities in India's cities.

During <u>his remarks</u> at the recent U.S.-India Business Council Summit, President Obama announced "a series of U.S. initiatives that will generate more than \$4 billion in trade and investment with India and support thousands of jobs in both of our countries."

These initiatives include USTDA's efforts to catalyze nearly \$2 billion in capital for priority renewable energy projects in India. As part of these efforts, USTDA Director Leocadia I. Zak <u>signed agreements</u> with three Indian state governments to mobilize U.S. industry expertise and technologies to modernize the cities of Ajmer (Rajasthan), Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Under these Memoranda of Understanding, USTDA plans to sponsor activities that will help each city develop safe, efficient and integrated energy, transportation and communications infrastructure.

USTDA has long been committed to helping deploy smart energy solutions in cities across India and around the world. In fact, the Agency's investments are currently promoting lower-carbon growth in four of India's seven largest cities by introducing "smart grid" technologies and solutions that can improve the quality and supply of power for millions of Indian customers.

As part of the Adency's efforts—and in connection with India's Smart Grid Week—USTDA will host a <u>Smart Grid Workshop</u> in Bangalore, India on March 2, 2015. Building upon a prior workshop in the United States last December, the event will bring together U.S. and Indian companies, utilities and regulators to discuss innovative solutions to India's energy challenges.

Join the conversation on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u> using the #IndiaSmartCities hashtag to follow USTDA's partnership-building activities in February.

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.