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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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### **USTDA AWARDS GRANT TO DEVELOP A WIRELESS BROADBAND NETWORK IN INDONESIA**

JAKARTA, INDONESIA – (June 1, 2006) Upgrading Indonesia's information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure in support of the nation's economic development objectives is the goal of a U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) grant awarded today to PT Semesta Citra Media (SC Media), a private Indonesian telecommunications firm. The USTDA grant will partially fund early investment analysis on the development of a wireless broadband network in the cities of Jakarta and Bandung, and their interconnecting transportation corridor.

The \$388,000 grant was conferred in a signing ceremony held at the U.S. Commercial Service office in Jakarta. Mr. Steven Winkates, USTDA Country Manager for Asia, and Mr. Agus Soewandi, SC Media President Director, signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. government and SC Media, respectively. Mr. Richard Rothman, Commercial Counselor, and Mr. Hendro Wibowo, SC Media Technical Director, signed as witnesses to the agreement.

The lack of sufficient investment in modern technologies in Indonesia following the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis has hampered the development of the country's ICT sector and impeded its economic growth. Significant investment is needed in order to provide a growing urban population with affordable and more reliable internet access. The use of wireless broadband technology in Indonesia is expected to increase economic activity in the Jakarta-Bandung corridor, which is considered to be the country's most important business district. The USTDA grant awarded today will examine the feasibility of a broadband network to provide faster, more convenient and more reliable internet access for businesses, government agencies and occupants of major residential complexes at a reduced cost.

SC Media has selected Pulse, Inc. of Walpole, Massachusetts, to conduct the study. In addition to the USTDA grant, Pulse will provide additional resources towards the completion of the study.

Since the establishment of the agency in 1981, USTDA has provided nearly \$30 million in funding for over 150 activities supporting important development objectives in Indonesia. In addition to the ICT sector, the agency's Indonesia program supports projects that represent opportunities for U.S. commercial involvement in the areas of energy, transportation, the environment, and other priorities.

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, feasibility studies, 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.