

PRESS RELEASE

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EnterpriseWorks/VITA Wins World Bank Development Marketplace Competition

Washington, DC- EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV) today announced that their Potable Water for Un-Served Rural Communities in Niger proposal was selected as a winner in the 2006 World Bank Development Marketplace Global Competition. This 18-month, \$199,789 project will work to create entrepreneurial alternatives for the provision of potable water in rural Niger by promoting low-cost well drilling and simple, locally manufactured pump technology.

Competing against 118 other finalists that were selected out of 2,525 applicants, EnterpriseWorks/VITA was chosen as one of 30 winners from around the world that will share US\$5 million for initiatives to provide clean water, hygienic sanitation, and access to energy. EWV's winning proposal was developed with the understanding that more than 50 percent of the rural population in Niger lacks access to potable water, and the resulting negative impacts on health and sanitation are a major factor in Niger's continuing cycle of poverty. Low cost drilling by local enterprises and locally made pumps can effectively respond to this enormous unmet need in Niger's rural areas.

"This project will be the beginning of a major breakthrough in rural water supply in Niger. While strengthening local capacity for future well development, the project will also provide access to new water sources for more than 10,000 rural inhabitants for less than US\$20 per person," said Don Feil, President and CEO of EWV. "EWV is honored to have the opportunity to bring its private sector approach to improving access to safe drinking water in Niger."

The World Bank's annual Development Marketplace competition, founded in 1998, promotes "innovative development ideas" by awarding early-stage funding to new projects that can deliver results and have the potential to be expanded or replicated elsewhere. This year's theme was "Innovations in Water, Sanitation, and Energy Services for Poor People" and proposals were judged for their ability to provide concrete benefits to communities by meeting basic needs for clean water, hygienic sanitation, and access to energy.



**EWV's Ibrahim Mamadou and Jon Naugle
Accepting the Development Marketplace Award
from World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz**

For over 40 years, EnterpriseWorks/VITA has worked diligently to fulfill its mission to combat poverty by helping entrepreneurs and small producers build sustainable businesses that create jobs and increase productivity, market opportunities and incomes. EWV achieves this by expanding access to appropriate technologies, technical assistance, knowledge and finance. EWV maintains a close-knit network of field and affiliate offices in Africa and Asia – enabling substantial knowledge sharing and collaboration across countries and regions.

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