

# OPIC Highlights

## Supporting Private Sector Investment in Pakistan

*Historically, OPIC has provided more than \$970 million in finance and insurance to over 100 projects ranging from construction and manufacturing to energy and financial services. OPIC's current investment portfolio includes more than \$125 million to 5 projects in the financial services, manufacturing, communication and services sectors.*

### U.S. Small Business Uses OPIC Insurance to Improve Crop Yields in Pakistan

A U.S. small business is using OPIC political risk insurance to provide advanced soil treatment technology to farmers in Pakistan, enabling economically depressed rural regions of that country to increase their crop yields.

OPIC has approved \$1.1 million in political risk insurance to Sweetwater International, Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah, for the manufacture, sale and leasing of Sulfurous Acid Generator (SAG) machines throughout Pakistan. The SAG technology, patented by Sweetwater International, reduces salinity and sodicity in soil, resulting in improved arability and increased agricultural yields. Sweetwater International estimates that the project will increase farmers' annual crop yields by more than 30 percent, and will therefore help Pakistan reduce poverty on a local basis.

Moreover, the company has established a research and training institute to train farmers in irrigation management and conduct further research into SAG technology.

This project is expected not only to deliver important economic and subsistence benefits directly to Pakistani farmers and their customers; but will also improve efficiency in the farming industry; and facilitate the important transfer of technology to Pakistani farmers.



Sweetwater International of Utah has established a research institute to train Pakistani farmers in irrigation management and soil treatment technology.

### OPIC and Citibank Establish Lending Facility

In 2002, OPIC committed \$75 million to establish a lending facility with Citibank to support private sector investment in Pakistan. The facility has been so successful that the initial commitment has been fully utilized and an additional \$75 million has been approved. Under this facility, OPIC leverages its ability to finance projects while helping Citibank to expand its medium- and long-term lending activities in Pakistan.

The loans are available in both U.S. dollars and Pakistani rupees. By working together, OPIC and Citibank are delivering much needed capital to businesses investing in Pakistan. At the same time, improving the availability of commercial financing which is contributing to further economic development in Pakistan.

### OPIC Insurance Helps Humanitarian Aid Reach Developing Countries

The International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC), one of the world's leading humanitarian nonprofit organizations, will be able to carry out humanitarian, disaster relief and medical assistance, refugee resettlement and retraining programs in 17 developing countries worldwide, including Pakistan with the support of \$5 million in OPIC political risk insurance.

The OPIC political risk insurance will cover items in IRC offices in the developing countries, including computers, furniture, office supplies, generators and pumps, as well as tools, medicines and vehicles.

### OPIC Supports Private Equity Investment

Through its Investment Funds Program, OPIC supports the creation and capitalization of long-term, private equity funds which invest in new, expanding and privatizing companies in emerging markets. Currently, two OPIC-supported funds, Actis Capital LLP and Clearwater Capital Partners Investments II, LP, are able to invest in Pakistan.



OPIC is a U.S. government agency that helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy. Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers. Since 1971, OPIC has supported more than \$164 billion worth of investments that have generated over \$69 billion in U.S. exports and supported more than 264,000 American jobs. For more information please go to [www.opic.gov](http://www.opic.gov).