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## PRESS RELEASE

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### CAI Hosts USTDA's Kenyan Trade Mission on Renewable Energy

**Corona, CA** —Combustion Associates, Inc. (CAI) hosted the U.S. Department of Commerce Reverse Trade Mission of a high-profile Kenyan delegation at its Corona, Calif. facility on Friday, September 22. The delegation is touring the U.S. to scout renewable energy technologies.

Facilitated by the United States Trade Development Agency (USTDA), the Kenya Solar and Energy Storage Technologies Reverse Trade Mission included top officials of the Kenyan national electric utility, ministry of energy and petroleum, rural electrification authority, private utilities, green development companies and tea processors. USTDA officials and representatives of Power Africa, the U.S. federal initiative to boost electricity in the African continent, accompanied the Kenyan delegation.

CAI president Ms. Kusum Kavia and CEO Mukund Kavia presented CAI's capabilities and experience in designing and manufacturing power generation systems. They highlighted CAI's Spirit™ line of packaged, modular, plug-n-play units that are ideal for developing nations such as those in Africa, especially for agricultural and rural areas that are not connected to the national grid. Dr. Pooya Kabiri, CAI's V.P. of Engineering, underscored the fuel-flexibility of the Spirits™ explaining that they can use renewable sources to generate electricity. For example, Spirits can be configured as a solar/natural gas hybrid system and can also utilize waste steam and solids as fuel, he said.

Africa suffers from an acute shortage of electricity that has stalled economic growth throughout the continent. Kenya is among a handful of countries making rapid strides in electrification with 55 percent of the population already connected and expecting to achieve "universal access" in the next four years.

Abundant sunshine and natural gas reserves is steering most African nations toward renewable energy.

Mr. and Mrs. Kavia are second generation Kenyans who established CAI 25 years ago and built a reputation for its Made in USA brand of power generation and process equipment. Nearly 60 percent of the company's sales comes from exports to Sub-Saharan Africa. One of CAI's marquee project is an 80 MW Greenfield-to-Turnkey power plant in the Republic of Benin. The company received praise for their work in Africa from President Obama at the 2014 U.S. – Africa Leaders Summit. [See video.](#)

"We are fortunate to have this opportunity to showcase our capabilities to such an esteemed Kenyan delegation," Ms. Kavia said. "With our life-long connection to Kenya it is our dream to be a part of its solution to overcome electricity challenges."

CAI has supplied its products and services to clients in Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon and Benin in Africa and also in Asia, Central America, U.S.A and Canada. The company routinely hosts delegations from these regions.



CAI President Ms. Kusum Kavia, center, with members of the Kenya Solar and Energy Storage Technologies Reverse Trade Mission, officials of the USTDA, Power Africa and guests.

**ABOUT CAI:**

CAI is a minority, woman-owned small business that provides cutting-edge engineering and advanced manufacturing solutions to the energy, process and environmental industries worldwide. It specializes in power generation systems that are cost-effective and energy-efficient as well as in skid-mounted automated process equipment and environmental solutions. It's signature product is the Spirit™ line of power generation systems that come in 1MW – 25 MW packages. CAI's products are engineered, manufactured and tested at its state-of-the-art facility in Corona, California.

Over the years, CAI has significantly expanded its exports and global customer base allowing it to deliver products and engineering services anywhere in the world. The Company has provided solutions to clients in the U.S., Canada, China, Belize, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, China, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.

CAI's export achievements have been widely recognized with numerous awards including the President's "E" and "E" Star awards (2016 and 2011), Exporter of the Year Award for Sub-Saharan Africa by the U.S. EXIM Bank (2009) and National Minority Person of the Year Award (2008) by the U.S. Small Business Administration. President Barack Obama himself singled-out CAI's export contribution at the U.S. –Africa Business Forum in 2014. [See video.](#)

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