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MASDAR INAUGURATES SUEZ ENERGY-EFFICIENT DESALINATION PILOT PLANT IN ABU DHABI

In June 2014, SUEZ was awarded by Masdar, a contract to build and operate a seawater desalination pilot plant able to be powered by renewable energy and with minimal environmental impact. The challenge is key for a region experiencing strong population growth, urban development and sustained economic growth, with limited water resources.

Today, the construction is completed, and the plant is currently being inaugurated in the presence of Ministers and High Representatives from the United Arab Emirates: HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber – Minister of State, Chairman of Masdar, HE Suhail Al Mazrooi – Minister of Energy and HE Dr Rashid Bin Fahed – Minister of Environment and Water and of Pierre Pauliac, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ Middle East.

The project based in Ghantoot, 90 kilometers northwest of Abu Dhabi, covers the design, engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance and evaluation of the pilot plant, over a period of 18 months. The pilot plant's inauguration is initiating the operational phase. SUEZ has successfully passed the water production and water quality tests, in terms of performance and compliance with Masdar's requirements. SUEZ's plant reaches the potable water production of 100m³ per day with an electrical energy consumption of less than 3.6 kWh/m³, thus offering more energy-efficiency than the current state-of-the-art desalination systems.

SUEZ, the reverse osmosis desalination world leader with over 250 plants built, has brought together some of its most advanced and innovative technological desalination partners to achieve the sustainability objectives: Dow Water and Process Solutions with its advanced and innovative Ultrafiltration and Reverse Osmosis membrane technologies, and ADIONICS® with its innovative liquid/liquid deionisation technology.

In parallel, together with the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology¹ and ENGIE's Laborelec², SUEZ is conducting studies on seawater desalination using solar power, in order to develop seawater desalination plants fully powered by renewable energy.

Those projects are aiming at developing and demonstrating advanced and innovative technologies in desalination to both ensure water security and reduce energy consumption in order to meet the United Arab Emirates' energy reduction targets. The main final target is to apply those renewable energy technologies on large scale desalination plant.

“SUEZ is proud to play an active role in the Masdar Seawater Desalination Programme and to contribute to Masdar's ambitious initiatives for renewable energy. Within this project, SUEZ's objective is to identify new desalination technologies that will address sustainable access to water, both in the arid region and throughout the world. By doing so, SUEZ demonstrates its commitment to identify and develop global solutions for the sustainable management of resources, a key issue, especially in the region”; mentions Jean-Louis Chaussade, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ.

¹ A research driven graduate university in Abu Dhabi

² Technical competence centre in electrical power and energy technology of ENGIE



SUEZ

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies drinking water to 92 million people, delivers wastewater treatment services to 65 million, collects waste produced by almost 50 million, recovers 14 million tons of waste each year and produces 5,138 GWh of local and renewable energy. With 80,990 employees, SUEZ, which is present on all five continents, is a key player in circular economy for in the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ generated total revenues of € 14.3 billion in 2014.

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