



PRESS RELEASE

GE TO BUILD DESALINATION PLANT AND RECOVER SALT FROM WASTEWATER STREAM AT COEGA PLANT

GE's Desalination, Evaporative and Salt Purification Technology to Produce Ultra-Pure Salt for use at a Chlorine Refinery

For Immediate Release:

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA(May 29, 2007) — GE Water & Process Technologies, a unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE) is to design and construct a reverse osmosis seawater desalination plant, which will provide 70,000 m³/day of fresh water. In a first for South Africa, the plant will recover ultra-pure salt from the concentrated brine stream for the production of chlorine, caustic soda, and hydrochloric acid at the refinery.

The \$220 million project is part of a larger investment to build a new chlorine refinery in the Coega Industrial Zone, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. This new 600 tonnes-per-day refinery will be owned and operated by Strait Chemicals and will meet the growing global demand for chlor-alkali and its derivatives.

"GE's seawater desalination and [thermal evaporation](#) technologies will create around 630,000 tonnes of 99.9% pure salt annually," said Earl Jones, General Manager, Structured Projects for GE Water & Process Technologies. "Reclaiming salt from the desalination brine stream not only improves the overall economics of the refinery project, but also removes logistical issues by ensuring a reliable and locally available supply of high grade salt for use in the refining of chlorine."

Pure water produced by the desalination process, which in this case is considered a by-product, will supply up to 70,000 m³/day of potable water to about 150,000 local inhabitants of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality for drinking and local municipal use. This quantity of water will also meet the anticipated water demand for the expansion of the industrial zone. As freshwater resources in South Africa become increasingly limited, this sustainable, new source of potable water from the Coega desalination plant will help alleviate water scarcity challenges caused by low rainfall, growing populations and rising demand.

"Our customer, Straits Chemicals, has an exciting vision for infrastructure development in South Africa, and we are excited to contribute great technology and innovative solutions in support of this vision. Our strength in Seawater Desalination and Thermal Evaporation Processes, combined with our world class partners, allowed our team to provide a robust solution with superior lifecycle economics," states Jones.

"GE is committed to providing environmentally-friendly technology solutions, which we operationalize through our global initiative called ecomagination. This project reflects our

commitment to the environment by providing freshwater to help lessen the social and economic impact of water scarcity, and by taking what would otherwise be a brine waste stream, and turning that into a valuable source of salt production,” says Nellie Swanepoel, Managing Director of GE – Water and Process Technologies in South Africa.

“We are furthermore working with world-class partners in the construction of the facility, namely Baran Engineering from Israel and Group 5 which is well-known to the South African market.”

Clive Rice, Director for Straits Chemicals commented, “The construction of this desalination plant will not only impact positively on the South African economy, as the Straits Chemicals refinery will produce over 600-tonnes of chlorine a day for both domestic and non-domestic markets, but will also be beneficial to the local community in terms of providing a solution for [water scarcity](#) concerns.”

Construction of the refinery is expected to take between 18 and 24 months with the completed plant being officially commissioned towards the end of 2009. It is expected around 600 local jobs will be created during the construction phase and once operational over 250 people will be employed. The refinery will be constructed in Zone 7 on an initial 30 hectares site with an additional 5-hectares for the desalination plant.

For more information on GE Water & Process Technologies, ecomagination Leadership Awards or GE’s World Water Tour, please visit www.gewater.com.

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ABOUT GE WATER & PROCESS TECHNOLOGIES

GE Water & Process Technologies, a unit of General Electric Company, is solving some of the world’s most pressing water challenges by providing industrial, agricultural and potable water, while lessening our dependence on fresh water sources. Technologies to accomplish this include desalination, advanced membrane, separation solutions, and water reuse and wastewater management and process technologies. GE delivers value to customers by improving performance and product quality, reducing operating costs and extending equipment life. For more information on GE Water & Process Technologies, visit www.gewater.com.

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