



PRESS RELEASE

GE AWARDS ERFTVERBAND ECOMAGINATION LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

ZEEWEED MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT HELPS TO RESTORE HEALTH OF NORDKANAL

For Immediate Release

HAMBURG, GERMANY (OCTOBER 4, 2007) —GE Water & Process Technologies, a unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE) honored German water management company Erftverband with an ecomagination Leadership Award for its role in improving the environmental, public health, and aesthetic water qualities of the Nordkanal. For nearly four years, Erftverband has used GE's ecomagination-certified ZeeWeed membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology at the Kaarst Wastewater Treatment Plant in North Rhine Westphalia, which serves 80,000 population equivalents. Treated effluent from the ZeeWeed MBR system is discharged to the Nordkanal, and can contribute as much as 50 percent of the flow to this sensitive, slow moving waterway that is highly susceptible to collecting pollutants. Once the ZeeWeed system replaced the city's 30-year old conventional treatment plant, the waterway experienced continuously rising water quality and aquatic health.

"A healthy waterway is a priceless resource both for a community and for the environment," said Jeff Garwood, president and CEO of GE Water & Process Technologies. "Erftverband is helping to restore water quality in the Nordkanal and is showing leadership in the adoption of advanced membrane technology as part of long-term environmental remediation and protection strategies."

"The efficient, compact and cost-effective GE ZeeWeed MBR technology is an advanced wastewater treatment technology that produces an excellent treatment effluent and improves the water quality of the sensitive water courses in the Erftverband catchment area," said Norbert Engelhardt, Managing Technical Director of the Erftverband.

Effluent from the Kaarst Wastewater Treatment Plant consistently exceeds the standards set by the European Bathing Water Quality Directive and has improved water quality in the 53-kilometre (33-mile) Nordkanal, raising it from level 5, or highly polluted, to level 3, or moderately polluted. Today, a larger and more diverse population of aquatic organisms is found in the Nordkanal, a clear indication of the positive impact that the high quality effluent from the ZeeWeed MBR system.

The land where the old wastewater treatment plant once stood will be reforested and developed into parklands, along with a network of recreational trails that will extend along the Nordkanal. Nearly half the



size of a conventional wastewater treatment plant capable of similar treatment capacity, the compact ZeeWeed MBR at Nordkanal spared about 2.5 hectares of forest from being cut down to accommodate the plant; leaving an urban woodlot that removes many tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year. The smaller plant also saved approximately 1.5 million euros in capital costs and reduced the amount of materials that were transported during construction.

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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, potable water, and wastewater solutions that lessen the overall dependence on our world's fresh water sources. Technologies to accomplish this include: advanced membrane-based separation solutions, specialty chemicals for water and process applications, thermal separation equipment, mobile water and advanced instrumentation and controls. As the global leader in membrane technology, seawater desalination projects, and water reuse, GE delivers water sustainability solutions through a variety of delivery models, including Build-Own-Operate and partnerships involving structured financing. 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.

ABOUT ERFTVERBAND

The Erftverband is a large water association in the Federal German State of North Rhine Westphalia. It is responsible for the overall water management tasks in the Erft River watershed. Among its tasks are the extension and maintenance of surface waters in the catchment area of the Erft, the flood protection, securing of the water supply, the surveillance of the groundwater, the improving the water quality of the Erft and its tributaries, and the treatment of wastewater. Erftverband is responsible for planning, construction and operation of 44 municipal wastewater treatment plants and for one industrial wastewater treatment plant. The capacities of the WWTPs range from 800 to 132,000 population equivalents (p.e.). For more information on the Erftverband, visit www.erftverband.de.

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