



PRESS RELEASE

Namibia: AREVA inaugurates first seawater desalination plant in Southern Africa

Swakopmund, 16th April, 2010

Today, Honorable Dr Hage Geingob, Minister of Trade and Industry, and Mrs. Anne Lauvergeon, CEO of AREVA, inaugurated the very first sea water desalination plant in Namibia, located 30 km north of Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast.

The inauguration function marks the beginning of potable water production at the plant. It is a major milestone in the mining project that AREVA is developing in Namibia: through state of the art technology, the plant will produce 20 million m³ of potable water per annum, which is enough to allow AREVA to operate the Trekkopje mine without pumping any water from the soil. Excess production will serve the local communities and industrial activities. As such, the desalination plant is a concrete illustration of the group's commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

After the function, Anne Lauvergeon declared: "I am honored that Dr Hage Geingob accepted to inaugurate the desalination plant AREVA built in Namibia. It shows the country's trust in AREVA's expertise and I have no doubt that our sound partnership will go far beyond uranium mining."

Dr Hage Geingob also reaffirmed Namibia's commitment to develop its national energy program and to ensure that the uranium mining industry will benefit as much as possible to all Namibians while preserving the environment.

The Trekkopje mining project remains the largest direct foreign investment ever made in Namibia and a particularly strategic project for the AREVA group. With a forecasted average annual production of 3,000 tons of uranium, the Trekkopje mine will bring a significant contribution to the group's uranium mining activity. By doing so, it will serve AREVA's commitment to guarantee its customers' security of supply.

MORE ABOUT

All over the world, AREVA provides its customers with solutions for carbon-free power generation and electricity transmission*. With its knowledge and expertise in these fields, the group has a leading role to play in meeting the world's energy needs. Ranked first in the global nuclear power industry, AREVA's unique integrated offering covers every stage of the fuel cycle, reactor design and construction, and related services. In addition, the group is developing a portfolio of operations in renewable energies. AREVA is also a world leader in electricity transmission and distribution* and offers its customers a complete range of solutions for greater grid stability and energy efficiency. Sustainable development is a core element of the group's industrial strategy. Its 79,000 employees work every day to make AREVA a responsible industrial player that is helping to supply ever cleaner, safer and more economical energy to the greatest number of people.

* Activity Transmission and Distribution in the process of divestment

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