



PRESS RELEASE

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SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT subsidiary Degrémont signs a €57m contract in Malta and helps clean up the Mediterranean

In constructing many treatment plants in countries bordering on the Mediterranean, Degrémont is helping to reduce the pollution in that sea, while addressing the very heart of the problems announced by the Union for the Mediterranean.

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT subsidiary Degrémont has entered into a contract with its client, the Maltese Ministry of Finance, for the design and construction of the most important wastewater purification plant on the main island.

This contract, signed by the consortium formed and led by Degrémont and including two Italian civil engineering companies (CCC and CMR), undertakes the design, construction and one year of operational support for a treatment plant that, with a capacity of 500,000 population equivalents, will process 80% of Malta's waste water, including the quantity generated by the summer tourist population.

The total value of the contract amounts to EUR 57 million, of which EUR 34.5 million will be paid to Degrémont, along with an additional EUR 0.5 million for operational support over one year. The rest of the contract's value (EUR 22 million) will go to the civil engineering companies. The future facility will be ready in 18 months for treatment of initial water and three months later for the processing of sludge.

Degrémont has become involved with the Union for the Mediterranean, for which pollution control is one of its strong principals, by constructing many facilities that contribute to this objective:

- Degrémont Italy opened a wastewater treatment unit last year to serve Gozo, Malta's second island.
- In Lebanon, Degrémont is currently completing a purification plant for Tripoli's 1 million inhabitants in the north of the country.
- In Egypt, Degrémont has recently won the contract for the design and construction of a plant in East Alexandria.

An innovative facility

In responding to the constraints imposed by its client under this new contract, one of Degrémont's challenges involved providing a large-capacity plant within a confined space (4 hectares) while preserving a fragile environment, all within an extremely short period of construction (21 months).

To develop a treatment process within such a small area while complying with European standards, Degrémont implemented two of its flagship techniques: Densadeg 4D for flocculation/sedimentation and Biofor for biological processing. Densadeg 4D permits a flow speed of 30m³/h through a series of stations for grit removal, grease removal, flocculation, rapid primary sedimentation and densification of the sludge produced. At the same time, Biofor enables concurrent filtration and biological processing to occur at these stations. The surface



area required for treatment is consequently reduced, as multiple processes occur in the same basin.

Energy production covering 30% of needs

The sludge treatment process consists of digestion and dewatering. Sludge digestion produces biogas, which is usable by the gas engines on site. This co-generation will produce 30% of the plant's energy requirements.

An integrated environmental concept

As an offshoot of the contract, Degrémont is implementing an architectural and landscaping scheme involving, in particular, the planting of over 6,000 trees and native plants (olive trees, bougainvilleas, laurels, roses...) with a view to integrating the facility with its environment. Finally, a biological deodorization process is envisaged in order to limit any risk of olfactory nuisance for people in the surrounding area.

*SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT's **Degrémont** is the company which specializes in wastewater treatment plants. Active in over 70 countries with nearly 4,600 employees, Degrémont achieved sales of EUR 1,014 million in 2008.*

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT

Natural resources are not infinite. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its affiliates deal with the challenge of protecting resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 76 million people, provides wastewater treatment services for 44 million people and collects the waste produced by 60 million people. With 65,400 employees and a presence on five continents, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT is a world's leading specialist exclusively dedicated to environmental services. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, a 35% subsidiary of GDF SUEZ, achieved turnover of EUR 12.4 billion in 2008.

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