



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**15 December 2010**

### **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT STRENGTHENS ITS POSITION IN THE AUSTRALIAN WASTE MARKET ACQUIRING THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES (STATE OF SYDNEY)**

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, through its Australian waste management subsidiary, SITA Environmental Solutions (SITA Australia)<sup>1</sup>, acquires the waste management activities of WSN Environmental Solutions (WSN) from the New South Wales government, for a total of €174 million.

Jean-Louis Chaussade, Director General of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, commented on this operation by stating: *"This is a strategic acquisition for SITA Australia, enabling us to strengthen our position on the commercial and municipal waste market, and for SITA Australia, to become the leader for this market in Australia. This intensification on the Australian growing waste market constitutes an strong opportunity for the group and for SITA Australia"*

WSN's strong regional positioning, together with SITA's expertise across the entire waste management chain will be a real performance driver for the company's growth and will enable the creation of synergies.

The treatment facilities will complete the Group's activities and its recycling and treatment capacities in Australia, by acquiring three state-of-the-art storage centres, two resource recovery facilities, eight transfer centres and three recycling units.

The operation will be finalised during the first quarter of 2011.

### **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, a leader in Australia's water and waste management**

In Australia, SITA Australia has a presence throughout the waste value chain providing waste collection and recycling, construction and management of landfills and treatment and transfer of waste.

SITA Australia manages the waste of 43,000 commercial and industrial clients and 3 million residents in Australia's 15 major towns and cities. In 2009, activity experienced strong growth due to the start of several new contracts, such as the collection contract in Brisbane. SITA Australia is the MBT (Mechanical Biological Treatment) leader with units in Mindarie and Sydney, inaugurated in 2009.

In 2009, SITA Australia received the Frost & Sullivan 2009 Award for the best waste management company in the Asia-Pacific region.

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has a presence in Australia's water sector through Degrémont, with the construction of desalination plants (Perth, Melbourne) and plants reusing wastewater (Pimpama). SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies 20% of the continent's drinking water

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<sup>1</sup> A company owned 60% by the Group and 40% by SembCorp Industries, a Singapore engineering, logistics and construction firm



requirements. The Group won the world's biggest Public-Private Partnership contract in the desalination sector in Melbourne in July 2009. It provides for the funding, design and construction of the drinking water plant, thus meeting approximately one third of Melbourne's drinking water requirements, then running this plant for 27 years. This contract represents a total revenue of €1.2 billion for the Group.

Australia represented a turnover of €355 million for SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT in 2009, or 3% of the Group's turnover. It has demonstrated sharp growth in 2010, achieving 5.5% of the Group's turnover during the first 9 months of the year.

#### **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT**

*Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge to protect resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 90 million people, provides wastewater treatment services for 58 million people and collects the waste produced by 46 million people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has 65,900 employees and, with its presence on a global scale, is the world's leader exclusively dedicated to environmental services. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, a 35.4% GDF SUEZ affiliate, reported sales turnover of 12.3 billion euros at the end of financial year 2009.*

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