

## Industrial Solutions and Services

For the trade press

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**Siemens: Water as a raw material is a location factor in Europe: Water reclamation and water cycle management strengthen competitive edge**

The cost and availability of water will come to affect European economies much as the dependency on oil and gas imports does today. “Water will become a growing cost factor that will influence the competitiveness of trade and industry and burden households even more than it does today”, forecasts Roger Radke of the Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services (I&S) Group, and responsible for Siemens’ global water business. Indeed Europe boasts adequate renewable fresh water resources in the region of 3500 cubic kilometers, but availability and quality differ considerably from region to region. Increased water processing in southern and eastern Europe and water cycle management in industry in northern and western Europe offer solutions that can meet the growing needs and requirements of the water quality, reduce costs, and thus strengthen the competitiveness of the regions in Europe. “With takeover and integration of treatment technologies for potable water, process water and waste water of the American USFilter Corporation, Siemens now commands a wide range of products and process expertise in Europe”, says Radke, to offer solutions for all steps in the water treatment cycle in both the municipal and industrial sector.

With its wide range of process and automation solutions, Siemens considers itself equipped for the many demands facing Europe. “Reclamation and the establishment of

closed water cycles in industry offer opportunities for exploiting the valuable natural resource water more efficiently while also combating increasing wastewater charges and the cost of fresh water while also abiding by new laws and directives”, stresses Radke.

In North-West Europe the municipal sector consumes approximately 35 percent of the water supply. With a share of around 45 percent, industry is the largest water consumer, although the quality of the drinking water in many parts of Europe is far from adequate for the sensitive industrial sectors such as the food and pharmaceutical production. In many regions, potable water is contaminated by nitrates, pesticides, and heavy metals. Adequate water supplies are available in east European countries but the water is frequently contaminated by domestic, industrial, and agricultural wastewater containing pollutants. Expansion of the steppe regions by 20 percent since 1985 and the resulting water shortages means that, in southern Europe, water will have to be increasingly processed for reuse in order to satisfy demand. Not only is the entire Mediterranean region experiencing reduced precipitation and increased environmental pollution but it is also faced with urbanization. According to a UNEP study the population in the Mediterranean littoral states is set to grow by almost 100 million to 524 million by the year 2025. In the coming years, this development will increase the water requirement, which is hard to meet even today, by 25 percent.

Europe already has the highest water prices in the world. In England, France, Spain, Belgium, and Finland, water prices rose considerably faster than inflation between 2001 and 2002. “This trend is set to continue and will place an increasing burden on companies”, says Radke. “At the same time we must realize that local authorities and industry will have to invest much more heavily in water and wastewater technologies than they have been doing”. Solutions are needed that differ from industry to industry and, in the municipal sector, from country to country. Since Siemens has bundled its broad portfolio of more than 1100 patents for products and process solutions and services under a single roof in the shape of I&S Division “Water Technologies”, “we can exploit Siemens broad presence in Europe to better serve the heavily fragmented market for water and wastewater treatment”, says Radke.

With a sales volume of more than 1.9 billion U.S. dollars and over 200,000 installations throughout the world, Siemens is now one of the largest suppliers of water and wastewater treatment systems. With Wallace & Tiernan in Günzburg, Germany and Stockton, UK, "Water Technologies" now boasts its own production and development facilities for disinfection solutions for drinking water treatment in Europe. Pipeline projects for transporting water across large distances are processed in Brussels. In Berlin, Water Technologies develops and integrates automation solutions for wastewater plants and drinking water networks.

We see considerable opportunities for our systems and solutions not only in the municipal sector and in public and private swimming baths, but also in industry, in particular the food, beverages, and tobacco industries, breweries, the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, and paper production. With our membrane, UV, and chemical disinfection systems and biological processes, we can introduce reclamation methods that meet country- and sector-specific requirements of water quality. The combination of our product and process know-how and automation solutions puts us in a position to help local authorities and industry manage their water resources more prudently. "We take care of the world's water" is a vision of the future to which Siemens is committed, because water always has been and will continue to provide prosperity and progress in Europe."

Further information under: <http://www.siemens.com/water>

The Siemens **Industrial Solutions and Services Group (I&S)** is the integrator of systems and solutions for industrial and infrastructure facilities and global service provider for the plant and projects business covering planning, installation, operation and the entire life cycle. I&S uses the electrical and technical products of other Siemens Groups in order to enhance productivity and improve competitiveness of companies in the sectors of metallurgy, water treatment, pulp and paper, oil and gas, marine engineering, open-cast mining, airport logistics, postal automation, intelligent traffic systems and industrial services. In fiscal 2005 (to September 30) I&S employed a total of 31,700 people worldwide and achieved total sales of EUR 5.390 billion.

Further information and downloads under: <http://www.industry.siemens.com>