

23 May 2016

## **SUEZ AND TECHFINA INNOVATE TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF LAUSANNE IN COMBATING MICROPOLLUTANTS, A KEY FACTOR IN IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY IN LAKE GENEVA**

EPURA, a limited company belonging to the City of Lausanne, supported by the engineering consultants BG Ingénieurs Conseils SA and Holinger SA, has chosen SUEZ and its Swiss partner TECHFINA to build the facilities to treat wastewater, micropollutants and sewage sludge at the Vidy wastewater treatment plant, which serves the Lausanne region. This technological and environmental showcase will have a capacity of 400,000 population-equivalents. These 3 contracts are worth a total of €56 million for the SUEZ-TECHFINA grouping.

The City of Lausanne in Switzerland is pioneering the combat against micropollutants from wastewater in order to protect the quality of the water in Lake Geneva, a strategically important issue for the whole region. Certain micropollutants can have direct or indirect effects on the workings of ecosystems and the behaviour of aquatic organisms. As new forms of pollution emerge, the wastewater treatment systems have to integrate more advanced treatments capable of eliminating these new molecules. Consequently, in March 2014, the Swiss Confederation decided to allocate a budget totalling €1.1 billion over 20 years to subsidise the elimination of micropollutants in around one hundred treatment plants.

With the support of a group of experts from both academic circles and the federal and cantonal water protection departments, EPURA selected the processes on offer from SUEZ, and its partner TECHFINA, to modernise the Vidy wastewater treatment plant and to return the water in Lake Geneva to a quality close to that of bathing water. On the strength of its expertise in the treatment of micropollutants, acquired in its five major R&D programmes<sup>1</sup>, SUEZ has developed Microblue™, a degremont® technology<sup>2</sup> combining ozone and powdered activated carbon, capable of eliminating more than 80% of the micropollutants entering the purification station and drastically optimising the operating costs.

The contract to modernise the station's wastewater treatment systems also provides for the implementation of two tried-and-tested degremont® technologies<sup>3</sup> ([Densadeg®](#) and [Biofor®](#)) for a more thorough treatment of pollution containing nitrogen and carbon.

EPURA also chose SUEZ and TECHFINA to recover the sludge from the treatment process by anaerobic digestion. This process reduces the volume of sludge to be incinerated, while producing biogas that can be recovered as energy<sup>4</sup>.

*"The project team faces a sizeable technological challenge, all the more so, because the estimated investment of almost ChF300 million, will ultimately impact the fees paid by the connected users. Such an investment is proof of the political and popular willingness to commit to a clean environment and sustainable resources. The creation of EPURA SA provides a framework for this contract, whose governance is made more complex by the multitude of representatives and specialised contractors,"* declared Olivier François, a Lausanne City Councillor, State Counsellor and Chairman of the Board of EPURA.

---

<sup>1</sup>SUEZ's R&D programmes: Poseïdon, Ampères, Armistiq and Sipibel

<sup>2</sup>degremont® technologies: Ozonation (Microblue™ Oxy), activated carbon adsorption on a pulsed bed (Pulsagreen®), filtering on sand ([Aquazur® V](#)) and ultraviolet disinfection ([Aqaray® 3X](#))

<sup>3</sup> [Densadeg®](#) for the primary treatment and [Biofor®](#) for the biological treatment.

<sup>4</sup> The total potential production of biomethane of the wastewater treatment plant serving Lausanne and its region is estimated to be about 30 GWh/year.



*“We feel very proud to have been chosen, with our partner TECHFINA, to build this facility for EPURA, which will implement innovative solutions to treat micropollutants. SUEZ and TECHFINA form a strong and coherent partnership between complementary companies. Certain services will be delivered locally, in order to guarantee reactivity and better address local issues”, points out Marie-Ange Debon, Senior Executive Vice-President in charge of the International Division of SUEZ.*

## **SUEZ**

*We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. Faced with an increasing world population, growing urban development and rarefied resources, the security, optimisation and recovery of resources are indispensable to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies 92 million people with drinking water and 65 million with sanitation services, collects waste from almost 50 million people, recovers 14 million tonnes of waste per year and generates 5,138 GWh of local and renewable energy. Employing 80,990 people, SUEZ is active on five continents and a key player in the circular economy for sustainable resource management. SUEZ generated total revenues of €15.1 billion in 2015.*

## **TECHFINA**

*Founded in 1957, Geneva-based Techfina S.A. is a resolutely forward-looking SME that designs and builds specific partial systems, as well as turnkey wastewater treatment plants.*

*The company’s financial independence, size and Swiss culture make it flexible and responsive.*

*The company’s main objective is to guarantee the performance of its facilities by proposing solutions that are technically reliable and competitive.*

*Techfina employs experts, engineers, business managers and project developers, who combine their skills and know-how to achieve a single purpose: meet customer expectations, whatever the size and complexity of the project.*

## **EPURA**

*Based in Lausanne, EPURA S.A. was founded by, and is wholly owned by the City of Lausanne. The company was created in September 2015 to oversee the building of the new treatment chains and the operation of the facilities of the Vidy treatment plant.*

*The purpose of the company is to collect, treat and purify the wastewater from the localities in the catchment area of the Vidy wastewater treatment plant, near Lausanne, and to collect, condition, treat and dispose of the sewage sludge or other waste defined in the Vaud cantonal waste management plan. EPURA can also be tasked by localities with the management and operation of their wastewater and fresh water evacuation networks.*

*The company has taken over the property and fixed assets of the Vidy treatment station and is now managing this major on-going project.*

### **Contacts:**

#### **Press**

Catherine des Arcis

Tel: +33 1 58 81 54 23

Email: [catherine.desarcis@suez.com](mailto:catherine.desarcis@suez.com)

#### **Analysts / Investors**

Tel: +33 1 58 81 24 05