Press release

Paris, November 18, 2026

Groundbreaking of the Aqaba Amman desalination plant, a critical infrastructure project for Jordan's water security and the world's second-largest desalination facility

- **Groundbreaking ceremony for the Aqaba Amman plant, marking a key milestone in the construction of the desalination facility, which will provide drinking water to 40% of Jordan's population**
- **A landmark project led by the Meridiam-SUEZ consortium and a group of international and regional partners under a 30-year concession agreement**
- **Drawing on experience from more than 260 desalination plants built worldwide, SUEZ will design and construct the facility in partnership with Orascom Construction. The two groups will also operate the desalination plant and its 418 km pipeline network**

On the occasion of the EU-Jordan Investment Conference, His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan laid **the foundation stone of the Aqaba-Amman desalination plant,** in the presence of Raed Abu Al-Soud, Jordan Minister of Water and Irrigation, Franck Gellet, French Ambassador to Jordan, Nicolas Forissier, French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Investment Attractiveness, and consortium representatives Thierry Déau, Founder and Chairman of Meridiam and Xavier Girre, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ.

"In one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, the Aqaba Amman project will significantly strengthen Jordan's long-term water security and provide safe drinking water to 40% of the country's population. Leveraging its recognised expertise in desalination, SUEZ is proud to contribute, alongside Meridiam and the consortium partners, to this strategic infrastructure project for the future of the Kingdom. I would like to thank His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan for his trust." **Xavier Girre, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ**

This first milestone marks the beginning of a major four-year construction programme to deliver, in a single phase, **the 851,000 cubic meter per day desalination plant, world's second-largest,** and a **418-kilometre water transmission network** connecting the facility on the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba to Amman, the capital of Jordan. **A 280 MW solar photovoltaic power plant** will be installed to supply 30% of the project's energy needs.

Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, with less than 100 cubic metres of renewable freshwater available per capita per year. Climate change and rapid population growth are placing increasing pressure on water resources. Unique in its scale, this project will provide **drinking water to 40% of Jordan's population**. It is an essential infrastructure project for the water security of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and a major **investment of more than USD 6.7 billion** for the country.

The project is being delivered by a consortium led by Meridiam and SUEZ, together with a group of international and regional partners. Under **a 30-year concession agreement**, the consortium will be responsible for financing, designing, building, operating and maintaining the desalination facilities, water conveyance infrastructure and photovoltaic power generation assets.

With **more than 260 desalination plants built worldwide**, SUEZ is one of the global leaders in desalination. Drawing on more than 60 years of expertise in the sector, the Group will design and build the reverse osmosis desalination plant, in partnership with Egyptian group Orascom Construction. The facility has been designed to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly rising temperatures and increasing seawater salinity. Environmental considerations, including the protection of marine ecosystems and the reduction of discharges, as well as social priorities such as local employment, health and safety, and community impacts, have been placed at the heart of the project's design and implementation, in line with the requirements of the Jordanian authorities and international partners. SUEZ and Orascom Construction will operate the desalination plant, the water transmission network and the solar photovoltaic power plant.

About SUEZ:
Faced with growing environmental challenges, SUEZ has been delivering essential services that protect and improve our quality of life for more than 160 years. SUEZ provides its customers with innovative and resilient solutions for water and waste services. With 40,000 employees across 40 countries, the Group works with customers to create value over the full lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their low carbon transition. In 2025, SUEZ provided drinking water for 67 million people worldwide and sanitation services for 36 million people. The Group generated 8.7 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater. In 2025, SUEZ generated revenues of 9.5 billion euros.
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