

## Press information

# Desalination plant contract worth roughly EUR 2.1 billion in Australia

### **Financial close reached on one of the world's largest PPP projects - Consortium to design, finance, build and operate plant for 30 years**

A consortium around Thiess, a company of HOCHTIEF's subsidiary Leighton, has reached financial close on one of the world's largest public-private partnership projects: The AquaSure consortium will design, finance and construct Australia's most modern seawater desalination plant and operate it for a period of 30 years. The client is the Victoria state government. The project volume totals approximately EUR 2.1 billion (AUD 3.5 billion). The consortium partners have agreed to keep confidential the distribution of shares.

Works on the desalination plant will start in October 2009 and be completed as early as at the end of 2011. From then on, the facility is planned to supply 150 billion liters of drinking water a year to Melbourne and other cities in the region. The annual capacity can be increased to 200 billion liters if necessary. The PPP project also includes construction and operation of the 86-kilometer transfer pipeline to connect the desalination plant to Melbourne's water network. In addition, the Thiess consortium is responsible for the energy supply, operating with a 100-percent renewable energy offset. In this context, construction of a wind farm for the plant is planned.

#### **CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**

Christian Gerhardus  
Opernplatz 2  
45128 Essen, Germany  
Tel.: +49 201 824-2642  
Fax: +49 201 824-2585  
christan.gerhardus@hochtief.de

page 1  
09/03/2009