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23 August 2011

Stockholm seminar focused on critical urban water issues

Panel discussion with seven industry experts outlined global trends

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – As part of World Water Week held this week in Stockholm, Sweden, seven experts from the water/wastewater industry presented a groundbreaking seminar on Tuesday, 23 August 2011, that examined critical water issues many urban areas are currently facing and the most appropriate ways for industry to respond to those needs.

Approximately 70 people attended the seminar, which focused on industry's role in addressing the biggest water needs in urban areas and areas that are becoming more urbanised, either due to encroachment from nearby cities or expansion of their own urban boundaries. Presenters also explored the current and future drivers of technological innovation in a changing urban environment.

Sponsors of the seminar, titled "Identifying and Solving the Biggest Urban Water Needs," were Black & Veatch's global water business, ITT Corporation, Siemens Water Technologies and the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Mr. James Clark, Senior Vice President for Black & Veatch's global water business, moderated the seminar. Other presenters included:

- Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, City of Pleasanton, California, USA, and Co-Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Council
- Mr. Rajeshwar Tiwari, Commissioner, Hyderabad (India) Metropolitan Development Authority
- Mr. Ralph Eberts, Executive Vice President for Black & Veatch Water
- Dr. Johan Grön, Chief Technology Officer of ITT Corporation
- Dr. Rüdiger Knauf, Vice President of Research & Development for Siemens Water Technologies

The first speaker, Mr. Tiwari, used a case study to explain how their city has been dealing with development issues related to the resiliency of water supply in the metropolitan area. By removing nutrient-rich sediments on the bed of Lake Hussain Sagar and preventing pollutants from entering the lake, for example, they have greatly improved the quality of water. Community participation and a widespread public awareness campaign were key elements of success for this lake and catchment area improvement project.

Mayor Hosterman's presentation covered a wide range of urban water issues that her community – and others like it in the United States – has been facing. She shared a case study to illustrate how they overcame political barriers and effectively addressed the challenges of planning and implementing a large pipeline. Based on that experience, she recommended developing a sustainable community strategy for infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Eberts' presentation addressed the role that industry can play in addressing the challenges raised by the first two speakers. He emphasized that the private sector can help major urban areas as they develop resilient water supplies that are reliable and sustainable, even following natural or man-made disasters. As utilities look to adopt innovative solutions or implement regional solutions, he said, industry leaders can help them by identifying appropriate best practices globally and then support them as they communicate about water issues with "one voice."

In Dr. Grön's presentation, he discussed the importance of water source management, process integration and improvement in the efficiency of the water industry value chain. The current fragmented approach to and management of water infrastructure does not foster a high industrial standard. Dr. Grön explored existing technological capabilities, challenges and solutions to optimizing the water intake-to-discharge process.

The last speaker, Dr. Knauf, pointed out how Siemens is developing new alternative water supply strategies to help synergize various advanced technologies that expedite the natural water reuse cycle, both safely and cost effectively. In recent years, Siemens as well as other technology, equipment and service providers, have designed and implemented process concepts and solutions to help municipalities and industries across the globe overcome the current separation, energy, chemical, and biological barriers that face the water industry and thus achieve total water management, all with the highest resource efficiency and the lowest environmental impact.

Examples for innovative key processes include efficient seawater desalination, energy self-sufficient biological wastewater treatment, and recycling of used water, Dr. Knauf explained. Siemens is particularly focused on six technology platforms that include hollow fiber membranes, electrochemical processes, advanced biological processes, enhanced oxidation, media solutions, and high-rate separation.

Following the five presentations, a moderated panel discussion further explored the issues raised by the speakers. In addition to the presenters, the panel included Pat Mulroy, General Manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, USA. She opened that part of the session by summarizing what the other panelists had made and then relating it to her own experience as a water leader.

This year marked the 21st anniversary of World Water Week. Among the sponsors of Stockholm World Water Week were Black & Veatch, ITT, Siemens and WEF. ITT, Siemens and WEF are among the Founders of the Stockholm Water Prize; and ITT is a global sponsor of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

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About Stockholm World Water Week

The World Water Week in Stockholm is the annual meeting place for the planet's most urgent water-related issues. Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), it brings together 2500 experts, practitioners, decision makers and business innovators from around the globe to exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions.

The theme for the 2011 World Water Week in Stockholm, from 21 August to 27 August is "Responding to Global Changes – Water in an Urbanising World."

The Stockholm event is a unique opportunity to reach decision makers, opinion leaders, and constituencies in many fields, while demonstrating to them our commitment to sustainable development, the environment, and poverty reduction. It is pivotal to one of the most urgent international issues -- the rapidly growing water crisis. www.siwi.org

About Black & Veatch

Black & Veatch is a global leader in the consulting, engineering, construction and operation of what the world needs now and in the future in the crucial areas of energy, water and telecommunications and in providing up-to-the-minute services in the fast changing federal and environmental markets. Founded in 1915, the employee-owned, \$2.3 billion company operates out of more than 110 offices worldwide and has completed projects in more than 100 countries. www.bv.com

About ITT Corporation

ITT Corporation is a high-technology engineering and manufacturing company operating on all seven continents in three vital markets: water and fluids management, global defense and security, and motion and flow control. With a heritage of innovation, ITT partners with its customers to deliver extraordinary solutions that create more livable environments, provide protection and safety and connect our world. Headquartered in White Plains, N.Y., the company generated 2010 revenue of \$11 billion. www.itt.com

On 12 January 2011, ITT announced its intention to spin off its Water and Defense businesses into separate publicly traded companies prior to the end of this year. The new water company, to be called Xylem, will be a global leading provider of products and technologies for water and wastewater; residential and commercial water; analytical instrumentation and flow control, doing business in more than 150 countries with projected annual revenues of \$3.6 billion.

About Siemens Industry Solutions

The Siemens Industry Solutions Division (Erlangen, Germany) is one of the world's leading solution and service providers for industrial and infrastructure facilities comprising the business activities of Siemens VAI Metals Technologies, Water Technologies and Industrial Technologies. Activities include engineering and installation, operation and service for the entire life cycle. A wide-ranging portfolio of environmental solutions helps industrial companies to use energy, water and equipment efficiently, reduce emissions and comply with environmental guidelines. With around 29,000 employees worldwide (September 30), Siemens Industry Solutions posted sales of €6.0 billion in fiscal year 2010. www.siemens.com/water

About WEF

Formed in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF and its Member Associations proudly work to achieve our mission of preserving and enhancing the global water environment. www.wef.org

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