News Release

Seawater Desalination Plant Commissioning is a Key Milestone for Island Nation ahead of the New Year

Tortola, BVI – 30 December 2014: Following commissioning and acceptance testing of Biwater's 10,400m^3/day award-winning seawater desalination plant on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, residents and businesses have welcomed a 24 hour drinking water supply reaching all corners of the island nation.

When the plant began operating last month, the general public confirmed both a good pressure and quality of water reaching them continuously, vastly improving their access to drinking water.

Sabbath Hill, being one of the highest points on Tortola, is ideally located to be able to gravitate potable water from water storage tanks directly into the extensive distribution system. As part of Biwater's scope of work, the company refurbished an existing 500,000 gallon storage tank and constructed a new tank of similar size, doubling storage capacity and enabling water distribution to extend to areas of the island that had never received a permanent piped supply before.

This island-wide improvement scheme helps to meet Tortola's water treatment capacity requirements inline with the Government's long-term water and sewage master plan. In addition to benefiting local residents and businesses, the new plant supports the Government in meeting the growing demand of its tourist industry, which will see larger cruise ships dock on the island once phase one of the new 'Cruise Pier Project' is complete in 2015. This will allow the Government to supply water to vessels that dock in Tortola to replenish their water storage levels, whilst visitors spend time exploring the British Virgin Islands by land and sea on popular day trips.

"The completion of this new seawater desalination plant is a key milestone for the British Virgin Islands, as it will greatly benefit the local community for generations to come by providing a reliable supply of drinking water year-round.

"It is also a great accomplishment for Biwater and the local contractors who helped to deliver this state-of-the-art seawater reverse osmosis plant," said Richard Smith, Director for the Americas, Biwater International Limited.

Following the commissioning of this seawater reverse osmosis plant, Biwater will continue to operate and maintain the facility over a 16 year period as a part of its obligations under its Water Purchase Agreement, Build Own Operate Transfer (BOOT) contract with the Government of the Virgin Islands.

In 2015, Biwater is also due to complete two package wastewater treatment plants, 'BiCOMs', which will provide a quick and scalable wastewater solution for Tortola.

The project has benefited from a successful project finance package, which saw Biwater inject equity into the project at an early stage to get works underway, and a latter USD $43 million deal with Barclays in 2013. The deal included a 100 percent guarantee from ECGD, the UK's Export Credit Agency.

At the 2014 Global Water Awards, the project was recognised by Global Water Intelligence, saying it demonstrated 'inspired financing for an inspired contract' under the Desalination Deal of the Year Award category.

Technical summary of SWRO plant:

The 10,400m^3/day system is a two pass system, running at 45% recovery. It incorporates four first pass trains and two second pass trains and is designed to run at 100 percent capacity. Pre-treatment consists of two stage media filtration, followed by five micron cartridge filtration, to protect the system from foulants.

Biwater is utilising energy recovery – incorporating pressure exchangers with booster pumps to the reject line – to complement the high pressure pumps feed supply to the first stage reverse osmosis trains.

Treated water mains total 3,330m, along steep terrain, with a total rise of 393m, including two treated water pumping stations.

– ENDS –

Photos:

Caption: Reverse osmosis hall

Caption: Reverse osmosis hall, chemical building and carbon dioxide tank

Caption: The port at Road Town, Tortola

Caption: A cruise ship docked at the port at Road Town, Tortola

Caption: View from the port of Sabbath Hill where the Biwater storage tanks are located

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About Biwater:

Biwater provides large-scale water and wastewater solutions for clients across the world. Since its inception in 1968, Biwater have gained recognition for innovative approaches aimed at overcoming the world's most pressing water-related challenges. Throughout its history, the company has grown to meet the demands of many water-stressed countries and their burgeoning populations. It has a successful record of accomplishment, having completed over 25,000 projects in over 90 countries – financing, consulting, process engineering, designing, constructing, operating, maintaining and owning water facilities – in both rural and urban environments.

Americas:
Biwater have been working in the Americas since the 1960's, starting with equipment supply and going on to deliver the company's first regional turnkey project, the Northern Range Guanapo Water Treatment Plants, in Trinidad. Subsequently, Biwater have carried out work across South, Central and North America. Biwater Inc., based in Los Angeles, handles the company's desalination activities and currently has more than 440 million gallons per day (MGD (US)) of installed membrane treatment capacity globally. Notably, Biwater's ongoing work in Managua, Nicaragua has provided the capital with its first large-scale wastewater treatment plant; it has been recognised for its sustainable design and operation by Global Water Intelligence, boasting the largest sludge drying facility in the Americas.

Membrane Treatment and Desalination Centre of Excellence:
Biwater's Membrane Treatment and Desalination Centre of Excellence (Biwater AEWT) is a premier membrane system designer and supplier producing high purity drinking, process and reuse water for both municipal and industrial clients. The Group currently has more than 450 MGD of installed membrane treatment capacity globally utilizing MF, UF, MBR, NF and RO technologies.

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