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World investor interest on the public-private partnership project of water automated meter reading

San Juan, PR – The Puerto Rico public-private partnership (“Partnership” or “PPP”) project of technology and water automated meter reading generated a strong interest from investors worldwide. The Puerto Rico Public-Private Partnerships Authority (“PPPA”), along with the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (“PRASA”), received thirteen (13) statements of qualifications from specialized consortia to participate in the project.

This interest came as a response to request for qualifications (“RFQ”) that the PPPA announced on June 2010 for the project that contemplates the design, development, financing, and operation of advanced technology for the water automated meter reading, the implementation of a geographic information registry of PRASA customers, and the reduction of non-revenue water.

The consortia that filed their qualifications will be evaluated based on their technical and financial credentials that will allow the PPPA and PRASA to determine which consortia will be invited to submit proposals. These thirteen consortia include local companies as well as worldwide entities specialized in technologies and commercial practices to reduce non-revenue water.

The following consortia responded to the RFQ (listed in the order in which their responses were received):



- NCO Financial Systems of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico/USA).
- TAHAL Group & Associates (Israel).
- *Proactiva Medio Ambiente* (Spain).
- Aguas Borinquen (consortium formed by *Empresas de Acueductos y Alcantarillados de Bogotá – E.S.P.* and *Miya S.a.r.l.*) (Colombia/Luxemburg).
- EYDAP S.A. (Greece)
- Suez Environment North America and *Sociedad de Aguas de Barcelona* (France/Spain/USA)
- *Consortio Canal Extensia* and *Inassa* (Spain/Colombia)
- *Empresas Públicas de Medellín E.S.P. – EPM* (Colombia)
- Pure Water Consortium (Cobra/ ACS Group) (Spain)
- Paragon Project Resources, Inc. (USA)
- Omega-Wendel, LLC. (Omega Engineering, LLC. and Wendel, LLC.) (Puerto Rico)
- Johnson Controls, Inc. (USA)
- AAIC Consortium (ACEA S.p.A., IBM, Citi, and ARAD Technologies LTD.) (Italy/USA/Israel)

PPPA Executive Director, David Alvarez, expressed his satisfaction with both the number and the quality of the consortia that filed their qualifications for this project. “Puerto Rico has received a great level of interest from entities and consortia leaders in the technology of water automated meter reading. This is a clear evidence that Puerto Rico’s PPP program is one that provides confidence to investors worldwide, and opens the doors to keep on improving our water services infrastructure for the benefit of Puerto Rico”.

PRASA Executive Director, Eng. Jose Ortiz, pointed out that “PRASA continues to make progress to improve the services to clients and to strengthen its financial condition. This PPP project will allow us to establish modern, reliable, and efficient water automated reading system that will reduce the level of non-revenue water that has come about due to reasons such as losses, imprecise metering, water theft, and unauthorized water consumption, among others”. Ortiz indicated up that 63%



of water produced by PRASA in 2009 was classified as non-revenue water, which in turn represented economic losses and an increase of maintenance and operational costs.

The first step to establish a PPP in Puerto Rico is “to ensure that the proponents are duly qualified to undertake such an infrastructure project, achieved throughout a process of request and submittal of qualifications. The next step will be the evaluation of the qualifications received by the Partnership Committee that has been designated for the project, as provided for under Puerto Rico’s PPP Act and Procurement Regulations. Afterwards, the names of the consortia qualified for the project will be released, which will be invited to submit their formal proposals as part of a request for proposals (“RFP”) as of next month”, Alvarez concluded.

The PPPA has established a website, www.p3.gov.pr which contains all the information about this and other PPP projects in Puerto Rico.

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