



Thermax signs technology agreements with two global leaders for advanced wastewater treatment

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With GE Water for advanced solutions in sewage treatment

Thermax Limited and GE Water, USA, have signed agreements to expand the role that both companies will play in meeting India's growing water quality and availability challenges. Thermax is a leader in energy and environmental management, while GE Water is a leading global supplier of water and wastewater treatment solutions.

Under the first agreement, GE's ultrafiltration and membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology will be utilised by Thermax for wastewater treatment, reuse and process water in India's commercial and institutional sectors. It is estimated that the need for advanced wastewater treatment for India's commercial and institutional sectors is expanding more than 50% per year. This demand is driven by new regulations related to recycling of wastewater. As this technology application is in its infancy, there is also a huge potential for the use of MBR in treating municipal wastewater for recycling, reuse and discharge.

"Today, India treats less than 15% of its wastewater before it is discharged into precious water resources. Through this agreement with GE, a world-class technology provider, Thermax can now provide customers with a reliable and efficient water reuse system that is well suited for decentralised wastewater treatment and reuse," said Mr. M S Unnikrishnan, Managing Director of Thermax.

Thermax will offer its customers in India GE's MBR technology that features the latest advances in the field of wastewater treatment. GE Water is a global leader in hollow fiber ZeeWeed® membrane technology, which is used to manufacture ultrafiltration and MBR products.

"We are excited to forge a new relationship between two strong companies that will bring complementary technologies, operational experience, solid industry reputations and best-in-class service to customers in India," said Steve Watzeck, Engineered Systems Senior Executive for GE Water. "We are confident that our well-proven products, applications know-how and technologies are an excellent fit for the water treatment and reuse requirements of India."

The second agreement provides for the distribution of GE's reverse osmosis (RO) membranes to customers in India for water and wastewater treatment applications. Industries now are adopting membrane-based solutions for water treatment. With its strong regional reach,

Thermax will expand the applications of GE Water's RO membrane product portfolio in India. GE has also established a new thin-film composite, spiral-wound RO element manufacturing facility at Hoskote, Bangalore to support India's growing requirements.

And with Wehrle for industrial effluent treatment

Thermax Limited and Wehrle Umwelt GmbH, Germany, have signed a technology agreement for treatment of hard-to-treat industrial effluents, which are "highly loaded" in terms of biological and chemical oxygen demand (BOD and COD) in water bodies.

The technology tie up will address pharmaceutical and bulk drug manufacturers, dyes and pigments, chemical, pulp and paper, and distilleries. Increasing shortage of water and rising pollution in water bodies have made treatment and recycle of effluent a viable option for industries. The agreement will provide them advanced membrane based waste water treatment technologies to treat the effluent, before being discharged or reused.

Wehrle Umwelt is among the leading companies known for its membrane bio reactors (MBR) and are specialists in treating difficult-to-degrade wastewater. The company has more than 25 years of experience and over 140 reference plants worldwide. Its turnkey solutions deploy technologies such as anaerobic treatment, sequencing batch reactors and membrane based filtration systems.

"Our technologies can add value to the Indian wastewater treatment market, and we have found an ideal partner in Thermax," says Mr. Erwin Muehle, Managing Director of Wehrle Umwelt.

The Indian wastewater treatment market is set to expand rapidly. Growing public awareness about pollution hazards, stringent effluent discharge norms from state and central pollution control boards are persuading industries to look for such advanced solutions.

"We are happy to acquire from Wehrle the right technology solutions for the wide variety of industrial effluents that need to be treated and reused profitably," says Mr. S Ramachandran of Thermax.

About Thermax Limited

Thermax Limited, the Rs. 3303 crore (USD 680 million) leader in energy and environment management, is one of the few companies in the world that offers total integrated solutions in the areas of heating, cooling, power, water and waste management, air pollution controls and chemicals. The sustainable solutions Thermax develops for client companies are environmentally friendly and enable efficient deployment of energy and water resources.

Headquartered in Pune, India, Thermax's international operations are spread over Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. For more information, visit www.thermaxindia.com

About GE

GE is a diversified global infrastructure, finance and media company that is built to meet essential world needs. From energy, water, transportation and health to access to money and information, GE serves customers in more than 100 countries and employs more than 300,000 people worldwide. For more information, visit the company's website at <http://www.ge.com>.
GE is Imagination at Work.

About Wehrle Umwelt GmbH

Wehrle Umwelt GmbH is one of the world's well known suppliers in the field of Membrane Bio Reactors (MBR), with focus on European and Asian market. Established in 1982 with its Headquarters near Freiburg, Germany, Wehrle has supplied over 140 MBR plants across Europe and Asia, mainly for Industrial wastewater and leachate treatment. For more information, visit the company's website www.wehrle-environmental.com

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