



BENDIGO COMPANIES AWARDED \$13 MILLION IN CONTRACTS FOR VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

AquaSure's design and construction contractor, Thiess Degrémont, has awarded \$13 million in contracts to Bendigo companies for the \$3.5 billion Victorian Desalination Project.

Ortech Industries has been awarded a \$7 million contract to manufacture and supply 44,000m² of its 'Durra Panel' acoustic ceiling system and 38,000 m of roof system, while Ausform has been awarded a \$6 million contract to build water retaining structures.

A key feature of the plant's design is its living green roof, which will be supported by Ortech's steel beam system. The living roof is the largest of its kind in Australia, and uses living indigenous vegetation to camouflage the plant.

It will also provide acoustic protection through the use of Ortech's acoustic ceiling system, which has been used with success on projects like The Australian Synchrotron and Vodafone (now Hisense) Arena.

Ortech has a world class, 27-hectare manufacturing facility in Bendigo, a warehouse in Braeside and a sales office in Melbourne. A new partnership agreement in the United States has also seen Ortech open a new sales office in Texas recently.

The company currently employs around 45 people at its Bendigo facility, having recruited another 10 workers to meet the project's challenging product delivery schedule.

Ortech's Managing Director, Derek Layfield, said he was pleased his Australian made, environmentally sustainable building product was being used on the project.

"The use of Durra Panel limits the amount of energy, timber, water and other natural resources used in construction," he said. "We're really pleased that our product will feature on this important project."

Ausform from Kangaroo Flat, near Bendigo, has been contracted to build concrete water retaining structures to transfer water. Billions of litres of seawater will pass through these structures as part of the desalination process.

A team of around 40 Ausform workers, including about 15 new recruits, will complete the work using 5,000 m³ of concrete, 12,000 m² of formwork and 1,000 tonnes of steel.

Ausform Project Engineer, Daniel Ogle, said the company was thrilled to be adding the Victorian Desalination Project to its resume.

“This is one of the biggest projects we’ve been involved with recently,” Mr Ogle said. “Being associated with such a high profile project gives us the opportunity us to show off our expertise to leading engineering and construction firms, which will help us win more new business in the future.”

Thiess Degrémont is AquaSure’s design and construction contractor for the Victorian Desalination Project. Project Director, Greg Miller, said Ausform’s tender was successful due to its proven track record of completing quality work on significant projects.

“Ausform is a well-regarded local company that has worked on a number of important projects like the Goldfields Super Pipeline, the Calder Freeway Upgrade and the Bendigo Gold Mine.”

“We must deliver this project by the end of the December 2011,” said Mr Miller. “Having high calibre local firms like Ausform and Ortech involved in the project means we’ll be able to meet our strict delivery deadlines.”

The Ausform and Ortech contracts are the latest in a string of recent awards to Victorian firms, including:

- \$150 million contract to manufacture pipe, awarded to Tyco Water Melbourne;
- \$43 million contract to supply underground power cable, awarded to Olex, Tottenham;
- \$17 million in contracts to supply steel products, awarded to OneSteel companies in Noble Park and Scoresby;
- \$7 million contract to supply structural steel, awarded to Page Steel, Derrimut; and
- \$6 million contract to supply transformers awarded to the Wilson Transformer Company, Glen Waverley.

- ENDS -

Media enquiries

Serena Middleton
Thiess Degrémont Stakeholder Relations Manager
T: 0419 114 022
E: smiddleton@thiessdegremon.com.au

About AquaSure

AquaSure has been contracted by the Victorian Government to deliver the \$3.5 billion Victorian Desalination Project. AquaSure brings together leaders in the fields of infrastructure design, construction, and finance: **Degrémont**, a SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT company and world leader in reverse-osmosis desalination technology; **Thiess**, one of Australia’s largest and most trusted construction and services companies, and **Macquarie Capital** - the world’s strongest and most experienced infrastructure advisor.

About Thiess Degrémont

Thiess Degrémont is AquaSure’s design and construction contractor, responsible for delivering Australia’s largest desalination plant by the end of December 2011. Thiess Degrémont is a joint venture between Thiess, one of Australia’s largest and most trusted construction and services companies, and Degrémont, a world leader in reverse-osmosis desalination technology.