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Title : PUB calls for open tender to expand Bedok NEWater plant

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SINGAPORE : The Public Utilities Board (PUB) is expanding the production capacity of the Bedok NEWater plant.

When that is completed in mid 2008, the plant will have more than double the existing capacity, from 32,000 cubic metres per day currently to 83,000.

The expansion will be carried out in stages, with the PUB calling for an open tender on August 4 for the installation of new mechanical, electrical and instrumentation equipment.

Demand for NEWater has been steadily increasing since its launch in 2003.

For the Bedok cluster, PUB's projection is that demand will double over the next three years.

Meanwhile, homegrown water company GrahamTek has successfully developed a new system that has proven to be more efficient in the production of reclaimed water than the current industry standard.

The system uses the 16-inch reverse osmosis membrane technology, which the company has been test-bedding at the Bedok NEWater Factory since August 2004.

Now, PUB says it will adopt this new technology at its Bedok NEWater plant.

Compared to the 8-inch system, the 16-inch reverse osmosis membrane takes up 25 percent less space.

It also saves up to 15 percent of the annual operating costs for the reverse osmosis system.

This will make PUB a world first in using the 16-inch reverse osmosis membranes in water reclamation.

PUB says GrahamTek's breakthrough is a good example of how a local company has gained from the board's efforts to encourage good R&D ideas and help turn them into commercial products.

The successful collaboration between PUB and GrahamTek is a significant step in Singapore's aspirations to develop into a global hydrohub.

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