



## Press release

Singapore, July 6th 2011

### Fast sensors monitor safety of Dutch drinking water

## Water supply company Vitens enters into partnership with Public Utility Board Singapore

Vitens is planning to provide its Dutch water mains network with fast sensor technology aimed at detecting pollution sooner. Additionally, 'smart grids' result in more sustainable water consumption. In future, Vitens' customers will not only be able to see whether the water that comes out of their taps is safe, but also its composition and the consumption per household.

In order to facilitate this step, Vitens, the largest water supply company in the Netherlands, will be working with the Public Utility Board (PUB) in Singapore. The two parties signed the agreement today during the Singapore International Water Week in the presence of Dutch ambassador Jansing.

### Fast sensor technology

Bacteriological and chemical impairments in drinking water can now be randomly checked. The fast sensor technology has been developed by the Singapore company Optiqua. This technology makes it possible to obtain real-time insight into the water quality. With the technology, the Netherlands would be the first country with the ability to apply this technique. Last year, Vitens and Optiqua successfully implemented the first pilot with sophisticated sensor systems. Optiqua, a subsidiary of the Dutch water technology company Optisense, is already a partner of the water supply company PUB in Singapore. In the autumn of 2011, a demonstration sensor network will be installed in the mains network in Friesland. Parallel to the pilot in Netherlands a similar pilot will be implemented by the PUB.

### Smart Grids

At the moment, water supply companies can only measure general water consumption in a certain area. Depending on the total demand, a certain amount of water is pumped into the distribution system and large reservoirs are used to respond to sudden changes in demand. Smart mains networks make it possible to focus more specifically on the water consumption in a certain area. This provides a great deal of information which can be used to improve the efficiency of water distribution in the area. The information can help users to regulate water consumption themselves. Experience shows that such insight improves user awareness about the amount of water they consume, which is an important point of attention for both Vitens and the PUB.

Through this partnership, Vitens wants to look ahead. According to Walter van der Meer, board member, the Singapore water company is an example for the rest of the world. 'The PUB in Singapore has proved its ability to become one of the most modern of its kind in the world. In view of our ambitions, that makes them interesting for us.' On the other hand, Vitens knows a lot about water technology. The water company in Singapore is particularly interested in specific developments in which Vitens plays a leading role.

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**Notice to the editor**

For further information on Vitens, please contact 24/7 Vitens Mediarelations via +31 88 884 7444 or [mediarelaties@vitens.nl](mailto:mediarelaties@vitens.nl).

**About Vitens**

Vitens is the largest drinking water supplier in the Netherlands. It delivers top notch drinking water to 5.4 million people in the Netherlands, over a third of the country's population. The publicly held company currently employs 1,700 people, runs 100 water production facilities and has a grid of 47,500 kilometers long. Annually the company distributes 350 million m<sup>3</sup> of water with a net revenue of 450 million euros. Vitens shares are 100 per cent held by local and regional governments.