

Speech by Mr Heiner Markhoff
CEO, GE Water & Process Technologies
at the launch of NUS-GE Singapore Water Technology Centre
22 June 2009, 3 pm, T-Lab Building, Level 10

Good afternoon esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of GE Water and Process Technologies, I want to thank you all for coming today to celebrate the official opening of the new NUS-GE Singapore Water Technology Center. This center has been in the making for about three years, and it gives me great pride to be here with all of you for this auspicious occasion.

I think its important to note that GE's relationship with Singapore dates back to 1969 when the company opened a number of electronics manufacturing plants, followed by an aircraft engine maintenance shop, a plastics plant and a previous water manufacturing facility. Today, GE employs about 3,300 people in Singapore and works closely with local partners on key infrastructure projects in the water, energy, transportation, and health sectors, utilizing cutting-edge, clean, efficient technologies.

This is not the first time that GE Water and Singapore have partnered to deliver effective water technology solutions. At the heart of the Bedok NEWater plant, is GE's ZeeWeed™ hollow fiber ultrafiltration membrane technology, which helped make Singapore's Third National Water Tap a reality. This advanced technology is used to produce high-quality reclaimed water from treated wastewater and is also the

foundation for the nation's first large-scale membrane bioreactor plant at Ulu Pandan. In addition, GE's ultrafiltration membranes are also used to purify water for potable uses at two very important drinking water plants, Chestnut Avenue Water Works and Choa Chu Kang.

Together with the National University of Singapore, the flagship university of Singapore, GE will again advance the science of water. The collaboration will unite NUS engineers and scientists, who provide extensive leadership in Singapore's water quality and resource management, with GE's extensive expertise in water purification and conservation technologies and solutions.

Today, the NUS-GE center houses more than 30 GE scientists and engineers whose focus includes solutions for low-energy seawater desalination, more efficient water reuse and reclamation and complex water and water-related solids analysis. In the next three years, we plan to hire over 40 more GE scientists and engineers into the centre.

The Center will expedite fundamental research and industry innovation in water treatment, while also strengthening collaboration with government and industry in Singapore and abroad. Singapore has announced its multi-year strategy to become a global water technology hub. We hope this center will help Singapore continue to realize this vision as it does its part to help commercialize the innovations from the NUS-GE water R&D center, serving as a test-bed to demonstrate new-generation water technologies.

This highly advanced facility will focus on a wide range of technology and engineering developments, from the fundamental development of next generation technologies through to optimizing system designs and fine composition analysis of water systems.

This is an exciting day for all involved. Working in partnership is the only way we can successfully and expeditiously address the most pertinent water challenges, including alleviating the increasing water stress found in many parts of the world, including regions in China, India and the Middle East and improving water quality for a variety of purposes. The work done at this center will be truly life changing for many.

In closing I'd like to take a moment and congratulate the very talented collaborations team on this great achievement and introduce you all to the key members who worked tirelessly to establish this amazing research center and who will continue to push the limits of research for the betterment of Singapore, global industry and society worldwide who will benefit from the advanced research that will begin taking place here in the near future.

Dr. Steven Kloos, GE Water's Technology Leader for China and Singapore,
Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of NUS,
Professor Barry Halliwell, Deputy President of Research & Technology in NUS,
Professor Michael Saunders, Director of the NUS Environmental Research Institute,
and

Mr NG Teik Peng of NUS, who as Project Manager lead the design and construction of the space GE will occupy in the Centre.

I'd also like to extend sincere gratitude to the Singapore Government who without their support this would not be possible. We are especially grateful to the Economic Development Board for their support throughout the process of the setting up of this centre.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Tony Tan, chairman of the National Research Foundation and our esteemed guest of honor today.

Thank you all very much and enjoy the remainder of your day.