



GRUNDFOS LIFELINK

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Athi Water Service Board Pilots New Innovation With Grundfos Lifelink

(The Automated Borehole focuses on ensuring full revenue collection and solves the challenges of unaccounted for water.)

Ruiru District, November 23rd, 2009 – Water stakeholders from Kenya converge in Rurii Secondary School, in Ruiru District to commission the first automated borehole (Rurii Borehole) that has been funded by Athi Water Services Board and Grundfos Lifelink.

The borehole is driven by solar power and works with a pre-payment system based on M-PESA. Each member of public (end user) receives a water key in form of a chip to access the water. The water key can be loaded with money from any M-PESA account in the country. Once the user is at the tapping station, they insert the chip, and water flows automatically until the chip is removed. The tapping station automatically deduct the amount of credits used and transfers the money in a closed payment system.

This system therefore ensures full revenue collection and accountability for the water service provider, thereby solving one of the big challenges of unaccounted for water. Kenya is the first country piloting these innovative systems that herald a new era in water systems with sustainability on all levels – technical, financial, environmental, and social.

Key leaders who will participate at the commissioning include; The Director General of the Confederation of Danish Industry, Mr. Hans Skov Christensen, the Permanent Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Eng. David Stower CBS, OGW, M.P for Juja Constituency, Hon. George Thuo, among other water stakeholders and partners. They are expected to officially commission the borehole on the 23rd of November, 2009 at Rurii Secondary School in Ruiru starting 9.15am to 10.15am.

With the ambitious strategies of the Government of Kenya and the vision 2030 on supplying the majority of the Kenyan population with access to water, new technologies and innovations in the water sector are needed. Athi Water Service Board has been the first in the country to pilot the innovative solar powered and fully automatic water systems from the company Grundfos LIFELINK. With this partnership, AWSB aims to expand the reach of water provision in the rural and peri-urban areas, and not least to achieve full revenue collection in its operations.

In June 2009, the parties agreed to make the first pilot project, using the Grundfos LIFELINK technology at the Rurii secondary school in Ruiru. The pilot was funded 50% by Athi Water Service Board and 50% by Grundfos LIFELINK. Applying the Water Act 2002, the water project was handed

over to the Rujwasco Water Service Provider to service and run the project and to ensure that the communities around would have access to water.

Athi Water Services Board believes that the innovative solutions from the Grundfos LIFELINK holds a great potential to expand the provision of water to the benefit of the Kenyan population and for water service providers with the ambitions of running a sustainable and innovative water business. With the LIFELINK system, the advantages for the water service provider are: full revenue collection and accountability; low running cost and easy maintenance from the solar power; and not least the potential to expand into peri-urban and even remote rural areas.

With the automatic pre-payment system, the LIFELINK system provides 100% revenue collection and accountability, which no other water system can provide. This is a solution to the major problem of unaccounted for water, which at the moment lies on an average of 47% country wide, causing a big loss of revenue and being a threat to the sustainability of water provision. With the LIFELINK system, the revenue is collected automatically at the tapping station and no water is being wasted, thereby solving one of the major headaches of water service providers.

Because the LIFELINK system is driven by solar power, the operation and maintenance cost is much lower than with diesel generator or electricity, and it provides a more reliable energy supply than the other options. During the past 4 months, where the majority of the population in Nairobi has experienced weekly rations and cuts of both electricity and water due to the drought and water scarcity, the customers at the LIFELINK system in Rurii have had access to water throughout this period.

About Athi Water Services Board (AWSB)

Who we are:

Athi Water Services Board is one of the eight state corporations under the Ministry of Water and Irrigation created to bring about efficiency, economy and sustainability in the provision of water and sewerage services in Kenya. The Board is created under Section 51 of the Water Act 2002 and covers an area of about 15,000 square kilometres serving a population of over 4.5 million.

What we do:

Improvement of water services provision to our community is our number one priority. We plan, develop and expand water and sewerage structure: We own and hold water and sewerage service: we monitor water and sewerage service provision; we Contract out water and sewerage service provision to water service providers.

Where we work:

Athi Water Services Board (AWSB) provides water and sewerage services in:

- Kiambu East
- Kiambu West
- Gatundu
- Thika

About Grundfos Lifelink

Grundfos LIFELINK (Kenya) Limited (GLK) is a private company created in 2008 in a joint venture between the global pump manufacturer Grundfos, and IFU, the Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries.

Grundfos has more than 60 years of experience in developing sustainable pump solutions for projects worldwide. With an annual production of more than 16 millions pumps, Grundfos is one of

the worlds leading manufacturers of pumps, and represented in more than 45 countries worldwide. Based on these core competencies, the Grundfos developed the LIFELINK system as a solution for sustainable water supply for the more than 1 billion people in the world who do not have access to safe water.

The mission of Grundfos LIFELINK is to improve the living conditions of the population in Kenya and beyond by providing solutions for sustainable water supply for rural and peri-urban communities through development, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of the Grundfos LIFELINK system. The company has chosen Kenya to be the first country for piloting these innovative systems that herald a new era in water systems with sustainability on all levels - technical, financial, environmental, and social.

For more information contact:

Eng. Lawrence Mwangi,
Chief Executive Officer,
Athi Water Services Board,
Tel: 2724292/3
Cell: 0722 315 730
Email: info@awsboard.go.ke

Lars Laursen,
General Manager,
Grundfos Lifelink Kenya Limited,
Tel: 2517650
Cell: 0714 512 262
Email: larslaursen@grundfos.com

Mildred Yiamat,
Corporate Communication Office,
Athi Water Services Board,
Tel: 2724292/3
Cell: 0722 315 730
Email: myiamat@awsboard.go.ke

Louise Koch,
Head of Research and Innovation,
Grundfos Lifelink Kenya Limited,
Tel: 2517650
Cell: 070729 406 795
Email: lkoch@grundfos.com

Arik Karani,
Corporate Communication Office,
Athi Water Services Board,
Tel: 2724292/3
Cell: 0722 657 972 / 0734 695 127
Email: akarani@awsboard.go.ke

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