

## **Abengoa achieves a Global Water Award distinction for the Rabigh 3 desalination plant**

- The organization has highlighted that "Rabigh 3 is the most energy efficient desalination plant".
- The Global Water Awards, promoted by Global Water Intelligence (GWI), have been presented on the evening of May 17, in Madrid (Spain), at the closing ceremony of the Global Water Summit.

May 18, 2022 - Abengoa, an international company that applies innovative technology solutions for sustainable development in the infrastructure, energy and water sectors, has achieved a Global Water Award distinction, in the category of desalination plant of the year, for the Rabigh 3 plant. The awards ceremony took place on May 17, in Madrid (Spain), at the closing ceremony of the Global Water Summit, a high-level event that brought together the leading companies in the international water sector.

The organization of the Global Water Awards recognized the Rabigh 3 desalination plant "is the most energy efficient desalination plant ever built, taking into account its size, location and the quality of the source water. It also allows more efficient use of high-pressure pumps. The plant operates with an average energy consumption of about 3.1kWh/m<sup>3</sup>, exceeding the benchmark of 3.5kWh/m<sup>3</sup> set by the client and thus outlining a future of large-scale energy efficiency."

The Global Water Award distinction for the Rabigh 3 desalination plant was collected by Antonio Jose Lara Zamora, Abengoa's Director of Water Operations, who stated that "winning this award represents recognition for the best desalination plant ever built and the most efficient. It also recognizes the extraordinary work done by Abengoa's team and is a boost to continue improving as international leaders in desalination. We are very proud of what we have achieved, and for continuing to contribute from Abengoa to what was established through Resolution 64/292 of the United Nations, which explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation, reaffirming that drinking, clean water and sanitation are essential for the achievement of all human rights".

The Global Water Awards and the Global Water Summit are initiatives promoted by the prestigious water industry publication, Global Water Intelligence (GWI). The key meeting of the water industry, the Global Water Summit, brought together

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more than 800 delegates from 60 different countries, more speakers and 40 panel discussions. This year's central theme was the change that water is undergoing because of climate change. In this sense, the organization has focused on charting a path towards a better future for water through climate emergency.

## **Rabigh 3, a world reference in desalination**

Rabigh 3, with a capacity of 600,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, and located in Saudi Arabia, is the largest reverse osmosis desalination plant in commercial operation in the world. Abengoa has recently obtained the plant's acceptance certificate from ACWA Power, together with its partners, SepcoIII (Power China) and Sidem (Veolia). The plant, which is already supplying water to the grid at full capacity, ensures the supply of drinking water to more than three million people in the cities of Makkah, Al-Mokarramah, Jeddah and Mastorah.

This project is a global benchmark because of its design, which allows it to reduce energy consumption and increase plant availability. It has also recently obtained a Guinness World Record for being the largest reverse osmosis desalination plant in the world.

## **Other awards given to Abengoa by Global Water Intelligence**

This is not the first recognition that Abengoa has received from the water sector, and from the GWI. Abengoa has won the GWI's Desalination Company of the Year award three times (in 2015, 2013 and 2009), and has been shortlisted twice (in 2018 and 2020). It has also won awards in the categories of Desalination Project of the Year, in 2020 (for the Shuaibah plant); and Developer of the Year (2007).

## **About Abengoa**

Abengoa applies innovative technology solutions for sustainability in the infrastructures, energy and water sectors. ([www.abengoa.com](http://www.abengoa.com))

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