Press release

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SUEZ and Dongguan Water Group's Sludge Incineration Project Wins France-China Innovation Award

- **The sludge incineration project jointly developed by SUEZ and Dongguan Water Group is the largest sludge mono-incineration facility and the first Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project for flue gas desulfurisation wastewater in the sludge treatment sector in mainland China.**

- **It combines energy recovery with water reuse solutions, transforming municipal sludge from more than 70 wastewater treatment plants across the city into renewable energy while minimising environmental impact.**

- **Now fully operational, SUEZ continues to be entrusted with the project's operation and maintenance. It demonstrates how innovation and partnership can accelerate resource recovery, decarbonisation, and the ecological transition.**

Zhou Feng, Party Committee Secretary and Chairman of Dongguan Water Environment Investment Holding Group Co., Ltd., stated*: "As an environmental cooperation project signed during the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France, the Dongguan Centralised Sludge Treatment and Disposal Project has drawn significant attention from construction through operation. Winning the 12th France-China Committee Innovation Award is a shared achievement of the Chinese and French teams, whose close collaboration helped overcome complex technical challenges. Through joint research on high-dryness sludge incineration technology, the teams delivered the world's largest sludge mono-incineration for power generation project with world-leading process technology, enabling 100% harmless, localised treatment and resource recovery of municipal wastewater and sludge in Dongguan. Built on mutual trust and partnership, this green circular infrastructure is rooted in the Greater Bay Area, providing a practical and replicable model for 'Zero Waste City' development and the achievement of China's 'Dual Carbon' goals. Building on this success, we will continue to deepen our partnership with SUEZ and further establish the project as a benchmark for Sino-French green and low-carbon collaboration."*

Francois Fevrier, CEO of SUEZ in Asia, said*: "This award reflects the power of innovation to address growing global demand for sustainable sludge management solutions. Developed with Dongguan Water Group, the project is more than a treatment facility. It is a benchmark for both parties in driving green transformation together, bringing long-term value to local industries, the environment, and regional sustainable development. Going forward, SUEZ will continue to provide operations and management services for this project, leveraging our professional operational capabilities to strive to make it a new paradigm for the global circular economy."*

Addressing Challenges, Setting a Global Benchmark in Sludge Incineration

Located in Dongguan, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, China, the project represents an investment of over RMB 1.9 billion. With a daily processing capacity of 2,000 tonnes (based on 60% moisture content), it treats sludge generated by more than 70 wastewater treatment plants across the city. To address challenges such as high local sludge volumes, instability in external transportation and complicating treatment, the project utilises SUEZ's patented Thermylis® 2R technology. This enables safe, environmentally sound disposal and resource recovery from sludge, reducing long-term land use, methane emissions, and its carbon footprint. Ultimately, the project supports Dongguan's "Zero Waste City" and "Dual Carbon" goals while improving the local ecological environment.

- **Ultra-Clean Flue Gas Treatment:** Pathogens, organic pollutants, and harmful substances such as dioxins are effectively decomposed during incineration at temperatures exceeding 850°C. The flue gas undergoes multi-stage purification, achieving emissions that meet the strictest EU standards to safeguard surrounding air quality.

- **High Energy Self-Sufficiency:** Under full load, waste heat recovery for power generation from incineration generates approximately 96 million kWh of electricity per year. This provides a power self-sufficiency rate of up to 60%, which covers more than half of the facility's electricity demand and reduces reliance on external power. It also cuts carbon dioxide emissions by around 55,000 tonnes per year, lowering the project's carbon footprint.

- **Circular Utilisation of Water and Waste:** By condensing and recovering water vapour from desulfurised flue gas and treating desulfurisation wastewater for reuse as cooling tower make-up water, the project recovers 400,000 cubic metres of water annually. Additionally, ash and slag are repurposed as raw materials for construction after passing quality checks, turning waste into valuable resources.

Chinese Experience, Global Value

Sludge treated by incineration in this project varies significantly in composition and properties, making its disposal more complex than in similar projects across Europe, North America, and other parts of Asia. Through its partnership with Dongguan Water Group, SUEZ has built and accumulated unique expertise in sludge incineration and disposal. This experience encompasses energy recovery for power generation, wastewater reuse, and waste-to-resource conversion, delivering synergistic benefits in pollution and carbon reduction. It serves as a valuable reference not only for Dongguan, but also for other major cities facing similar challenges.

Global Innovation, Local Implementation

Innovation is the core driving force of SUEZ's continuous growth and is deeply embedded in the Group's DNA. In recent years, SUEZ has been repeatedly recognised with the France-China Committee Innovation Award, underscoring the Group's contributions to Sino-French innovation cooperation and sustainable development. The award honours innovative achievements jointly developed by Chinese and French teams that generate positive social, economic, industrial, and environmental impacts, standing as one of the most influential and credible accolades in Sino-French innovation cooperation.

In China, SUEZ remains committed to a market-driven innovation approach tailored to customer needs and industrial challenges. The company works closely with municipal and industrial customers to tackle emerging issues in environmental governance and resource management. Focusing on three core pillars of water, waste, and digitalisation, SUEZ prioritises emerging pollutants treatment, resource circularity and value recovery, as well as smart operations and artificial intelligence applications. Through innovative technologies and solutions, SUEZ helps customers improve operational efficiency, reduce their environmental footprints, accelerate green and low-carbon transitions, and continually create greater value for sustainable development.

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With five incineration lines, the project achieves 100% harmless disposal of Dongguan's daily municipal sludge.

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About SUEZ:
Faced with growing environmental challenges, SUEZ has been delivering essential services that protect and improve our quality of life for more than 160 years. SUEZ provides its customers with innovative and resilient solutions for water and waste services. With 40 000 employees across 40 countries, the Group works with customers to create value over the full lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their low carbon transition. In 2025, SUEZ provided drinking water for 67 million people worldwide and sanitation services for 36 million people. The Group generated 8.7 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater. In 2025, SUEZ generated revenues of 9.5 billion euros. For more information: www.suez.com.

In Asia, SUEZ's journey began some 70 years ago, first in Southeast Asia before expanding to China 50 years ago. With over 6,500 employees across Asia, SUEZ has built more than 700 water and wastewater treatment plants. Today, SUEZ works with municipal and industrial customers in more than 30 major cities and regions, providing water and waste recycling and recovery services to 25+ million people and 21 industrial parks.

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