

Compact 800 Cleaner water in Sri Lanka



The Ja-Ela sewage treatment works outside the city of Colombo in Sri Lanka will be commissioned during second part of 2011. ABB's technical solutions are part of it and will contribute to a cleaner sea, a healthier environment and improved quality of life for over 250,000 people.

The sewage treatment works has been built just outside the suburb of Ja-Ela, 20 kilometres north of the capital city of Colombo, and is named after the locality. Another sewage treatment works is under construction in Ratmalana, approx 15 kilometres south of Colombo. Many of the capital's 4 million inhabitants live and work in these suburbs. In addition, tourism is expanding at record speeds. There is a massive demand for clean drinking water and a functioning sewage system.

With financial support from SIDA (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Sri Lanka's water authority has given Purac, the contracting operation within the Swedish environmental technology group Läckeby Water Group, the task of planning the two sewage treatment works.

Stinking sewage water

"In Sri Lanka both the surface water and the ground water are often highly contaminated. In the area around Ja-Ela there is an airport, a military base as well as industrial and residential areas. Until now most of them have had their own sewage drainage and cleaned it as well as they could. But naturally that has not been sufficient", says Christer Andersson, the project manager responsible at Purac.

He tells how disturbing the odor of the bad sewage can be and how households only install basic grilles to clean their sewage before it is released into the nearest watercourse.

Complete systems from ABB

Purac is implementing a number of large water treatment projects in Sri Lanka and several of them have included complete control and operator systems from ABB. The deliveries to Ja-Ela and Ratmalana plants are the first from ABB Sweden.

ABB has supplied the Ja-Ela sewage treatment plant with a complete control system based on a Compact HMI 800 as operator station and four AC800 M controller units. The sewage treatment works in Ratmalana will have the same type of system solution. Some of the water treatment plants east of Colombo have used the 800xA control system.

"These complete control and monitoring systems from ABB are common in many industries where fully automated operations are required, including the Water treatment industry", explains Magnus Högstedt, Industry Manager at ABB. He has been on site and installed the computers and carried out introductory training for Läckeby Water Group before they program the systems in the Ja-Ela works.

"Both ABB and Purac have local offices here in Sri Lanka which facilitates a lot of our contact. ABB have excellent products and the collaboration with ABB Sweden has run very smoothly so far", says Christer Andersson.

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