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PRESS RELEASE

Singapore and Ba Tri District, Ben Tre Province, Vietnam

Ba Lai Water Supply Plant in Vietnam Commences Operations

Jointly developed with Darco Water Technologies Limited, the plant's first phase of operations will be able to bring affordable, clean piped water to up to 20,000 households in Vietnam's Ben Tre Province



Cutting the ribbon to symbolise the opening of the Darco Ba Lai Water Treatment Plant. (Left to right) Mr Tran Quoc Tuan, Vice Director, Vietcombank; Mr Roy Kho, Consul-General, Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Ho Chi Minh City; Mr Wang Zhi, Executive Chairman, Darco Water Technologies; Mr Tran Ngoc Tam, Chairman, Ben Tre Provincial People's Committee; Ms Claudine Lim, CEO, InfraCo Asia; Mr Daniel Stork, Consul General, Consulate General of the Netherlands in Ho Chi Minh City; and Mr Dominic Balasuriya, Economic Consul, Consulate General of Australia in Ho Chi Minh City

Today, Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) company InfraCo Asia announced the start of operations for the 5,000 m³/day Darco Ba Lai Water Treatment Plant, which will be able to bring piped water to up to 20,000 households in Vietnam's Ben Tre Province. When the project's subsequent phases are complete, the plant will be able to treat 15,000m³/day, with the potential to provide access for approximately 35,000 households, as well as industrial customers.

Located in Ba Tri District in Ben Tre Province, Vietnam, the Darco Ba Lai Water Treatment Plant was developed in partnership with Darco Water Technologies Limited, which also provided expertise in integrated engineering and project management based on its experience in water treatment solutions across Asia.

The start of operations was marked with an opening event, attended by:

- Mr Tran Ngoc Tam, Chairman, Ben Tre Provincial People's Committee
- Mr Roy Kho, Consul-General, Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Ho Chi Minh City
- Mr Daniel Stork, Consul General, Consulate General of the Netherlands in Ho Chi Minh City
- Mr Dominic Balasuriya, Economic Consul, Consulate General of Australia in Ho Chi Minh City

InfraCo Asia invested U.S. \$2.45M in equity into the project via Darco Viet Water Company Limited, a joint venture between InfraCo Asia and Darco Water Technologies Limited. In addition to the investment, InfraCo Asia provided project structuring and development guidance. PIDG Technical Assistance (TA) provided a U.S. \$2.7M viability gap funding (VGF) grant to partially subsidise the construction cost. The primary purpose of a VGF grant is to address the gap between project costs and expected project revenues, while ensuring the water tariff remains affordable.

The project's initial 5,000 m³/day will be piped to residents in Ba Tri District communes including My Nhon, My Chanh, My Thanh and Tan Xuan, where the median percentage of households classified as poor or near-poor is 13.9%. Vietnam's national average poverty rate is 4.4%.

Water supply from the plant will be more affordable than current sources of water, including street water vendors, as well as water, rainwater, and river water, which require treatment with filters, chemicals, or boiling prior to use.



Darco Ba Lai Water Treatment Plant



Water clarity before and after treatment

InfraCo Asia CEO Claudine Lim said, “In partnering with Darco for the development of the Ba Lai project, we found a partner with complementary capabilities when it comes to technical skill sets and sector knowledge. Working together, we are proud to bring a treatment plant online that will supply water to people in the surrounding communities, meeting international Health, Safety, Environmental, and Social (HSES) standards.”

Darco's Executive Chairman, Mr. Wang Zhi said, “This partnership with PIDG and InfraCo Asia has been an important component of our expansion into the Vietnamese market. Combining our technical expertise

with their strategic investments have allowed us to not only create a better water treatment facility, but also develop a robust platform that will bring reliable, clean water to homes in the region.”

According to the World Bank’s Global Partnership for Results-Based Approaches (www.gprba.org), approximately 74% of the Vietnamese population is concentrated in rural areas, yet only 48% of households have access to clean water and must rely on polluted sources for basic household needs during the dry season. On 3 January 2022, Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Le Van Thanh, signed a decision approving the National Rural Clean Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy to supply 65% of rural residents with affordable clean water by 2030, and 100% of all rural residents by 2045.

High resolution of the images can be [downloaded here](#).

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About InfraCo Asia and The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)

InfraCo Asia is a commercially managed infrastructure development and investment company of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG). Headquartered in Singapore, InfraCo Asia catalyses greater private sector investment in infrastructure across South and Southeast Asia by providing funding and development expertise. InfraCo Asia funds early-stage development activities to realise socially responsible and commercially viable infrastructure that contributes to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. InfraCo Asia is currently funded by four members of PIDG – the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Australia. For more information, please visit www.infracoasia.com

The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) is an innovative infrastructure project developer and investor which mobilises private investment in sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa and south and south-east Asia. PIDG investments promote socio-economic development within a just transition to net zero emissions, combat poverty and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PIDG delivers its ambition in line with its values of opportunity, accountability, safety, integrity and impact. Since 2002, PIDG has supported 190 infrastructure projects to financial close which provided an estimated 220 million people with access to new or improved infrastructure. PIDG Technical Assistance

(TA) can provide technical assistance and capital grants to the PIDG companies to meet a range of needs associated with an infrastructure project's life-cycle. PIDG TA can also provide up-front viability gap funding grants to support PIDG projects that require concessional funding to make a project with strong development impact financeable. PIDG is funded by the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, Sweden, Germany and the IFC. For more information, visit www.pidg.org.

About Darco Water Technologies Limited

Darco Water Technologies Limited ("Darco" and with its subsidiaries "the Group") was founded in 1999 and listed on the Singapore Exchange in 2002. Darco is a provider of integrated engineering and expertise-driven solutions for water treatment, wastewater management, clean water supply and vacuum solid waste management. It has a well-established presence in China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam, with a track record of projects delivered on time, on budget, and with high quality. Darco's scope of work includes design, fabrication, assembly, installation, and commissioning, as well as Design, Build, Own, Operate ("DBOO") projects. The Group generates additional revenue from post-EPC ("Engineering, Procurement, and Construction") maintenance services, which are supported by the service centres of its trading division, which supply essential chemicals and other products required for maintenance servicing.

For more information, please visit www.darcowater.com.