

SA giants to pump Iraqi water



We have completed the second of two orders worth a total of R30-million for a water project in Iraq.

The latest order comprised a 1600mm (42-inch) single-stage vertical turbine pump, priced at about R7million, identical

to three machines delivered in 2005 to the same water supply project about 100km southwest of Baghdad.

The four pumps are the biggest yet manufactured by our Germiston-based branch. Project scope comprises a multi-billion US-dollar rehabilitation of existing canals and pumphouses to deliver water to nearby population centres.

Our vertical turbine pumps are needed to replace obsolete machines within a key existing pumphouse, and were designed to fit existing sumps and foundations, and align with original pipes.

The order for the fourth vertical turbine pump was placed by Washington International Incorporated, a USA-based project management company. Motor supply and a comprehensive set of spare parts are included.

Machine size is impressive. When fitted with its 1300kW, 420rpm 14-pole electric motor, the pump measures almost 20 metres in length, and weighs 36 tons. Duty is 3800 litres per second at a head of 20 metres. Apart from the casing, pump construction is of stainless steel throughout to combat corrosive attack by water pumped at the high Iraqi ambient temperatures of around 50 deg C.

A coating of Belzona corrosion resistant compound protects the cast iron casing itself. Before shipping early in May, witness performance tests will be carried out on the pump at the South African Bureau of Standards facility in Pretoria.

The motor will then be removed and the two machines shipped as separate but complete assemblies from South Africa to the port of Umm Qasr in Iraq. Road transport will be used to take the pump to site.

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alan@apepumps.co.za