

Norit NV

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Chile's Earthquake Norit supplies emergency response water treatment equipment

On February 27 the most populated region of Chile was shaken by an earthquake that measured 8.8 on the Richter scale, the 5th largest earthquake ever recorded worldwide. The earthquake was followed by a tsunami that swept the Chilean coast destroying everything in its way. The catastrophic events affected over two million people as a result of the considerable damage to housing and essential services such as safe drinking water.



The Chilean Ministry of Public Works represented by the Management of Hydraulic Works and Ecopreneur Chile SA, Norit X-Flow's local partner, agreed on a rapid emergency response geared towards supplying clean drinking water using the Norit WaterFront compact water system.



A WaterFront compact water system is a self-contained, easy to use, portable water treatment plant that addresses the needs of people desperate for a reliable source of drinking water. Each unit has its own unique filtration system, a combination of membrane filtration with UV light sterilization, based on Norit X-Flow technology. The compact water system is completed with a power generator to produce the required electricity and a pump with a floating hose to feed the unit with polluted water.

Within one week of the horrific events, six Norit WaterFront compact water systems were airlifted from Norit's factory in the Netherlands to Santiago de Chile, where they were tested and transported to the devastated regions of Concepción and Temuco. Two of the units were immediately commissioned in Coliumo, a small, coastal and touristic town 40 km north of Concepción. Together, the Norit WaterFront compact water systems deliver enough reliable drinking water for 216000 people.



The logistics, installation and start-up were conducted by Ecopreneur's professional technical staff, and the staff supervision was conducted by Argentinean-based Norit Südmo Latinoamérica.



Since the beginning of 2005 – after the tsunami – many Norit WaterFront units have been or currently are operating in various regions in the world, providing either support in extreme and tragic scenarios, such as in Haiti following the recent earthquake, or providing temporary widespread coverage for events such as the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.



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About Norit

The Norit Group develops and applies state-of-the-art purification technologies to help society, through our clients, meet environmental, health, and safety challenges, and work towards a sustainable future. Headquartered in the Netherlands, Norit supplies consumables, components, systems, and solutions, based on proprietary technology to a variety of industries including the water, beverage, food, chemical, pharmaceutical, and marine industries. Almost 9 percent of the world's population - over half a billion people – already consumes water purified by Norit!