



PRESS RELEASE

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Purite brings museum items back to life for major exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum

Purite (a subsidiary of Ondeo IS), a leading provider of water purification systems, has played a key role in preparing items for a major exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in March 2010. Several of the 65 quilts to be exhibited have had to undergo extensive cleaning and restoration before they can be put on display.

The wet-cleaning of delicate items, such as textiles and quilts, some of which may be several hundred years old, is an essential part of the preparation process before an exhibition. The effectiveness of the manual process, which can take several hours and sometimes even days, is entirely dependent on the purity of the water used and is only possible through the use of de-ionised water. Since 1994, Purite has been supplying the textile conservation team at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London with its de-ionised system. The Purite system comprises carbon filtration and an ion exchanger with a capacity of 6,000 litres, which is enough to wet-clean approximately six normal sized quilts.

The process begins with the quilt being laid out and soaked in a 100 litre wash tank filled with de-ionised water. Once the quilt is thoroughly wet the water is carefully drained away and it is then washed in a 2g/litre solution of Hostopan (an anionic surfactant) with 0.05g/litre of sodium carboxymethylcellulose (a soil suspension agent) at room temperature of around 18°C. The quilt is then left to soak for one hour before it is extensively rinsed in de-ionised water and dried.

Joanne Hackett, Senior Textile Conservator at the V&A said: *"Although the wet-cleaning process can be time consuming it is very rewarding to see an old quilt or piece of material literally 'come to life' as its original colours are revealed. Without the de-ionised water system from Purite the cleaning process just wouldn't be possible. If we used normal tap water, even if it was treated, we would end up adding more chemicals than we would be trying to clean away."*

Kelly Miller, Business Development Manager, at Purite added: *"Purite water purification systems are becoming as well known in the world of conservation and restoration of museum exhibits as they are for their uses in laboratories, hospitals and throughout industry. The wet-cleaning of these delicate quilts at the V&A is a great example of how the Purite water purification system can be adapted to meet the needs and requirements of any customer application no matter how specialised. The transformation of the exhibits is an excellent visual demonstration of the power of pure water."*



Purite, a subsidiary of Ondeo Industrial Solutions, designs, develops and manufactures water purification systems for use in applications in both the healthcare and research sectors and throughout industry. The company specialises in a wide range of technologies, including ion exchange, carbon filtration, reverse osmosis, electro-deionisation and ultrafiltration. Purite solutions can be supplied as stand-alone units or as fully integrated systems with production capacities up to many thousands of litres per hour. In every case, the company provides full installation, technical and service support. Purite has been established for over 30 years and is accredited to ISO 9001:2008.

To know more: www.purite.com

Ondeo Industrial Solutions (Ondeo IS), a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, is a leading provider of process and management improvements across the entire industrial water cycle. Present in Europe with around 700 employees, Ondeo IS generated in 2008 a turnover of 142 million euros. Ondeo IS operates and maintains over 200 water treatment plants for industry throughout Europe. It has built more than 2,000 industrial wastewater treatment plants and more than 1,800 process water treatment plants.

To know more: www.ondeo-is.com

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT

Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge to protect resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 76 million people, provides wastewater treatment services for 44 million people and collects the waste produced by 60 million people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has 65,400 employees and, with its presence on a global scale, is the world's leader exclusively dedicated to environmental services. In 2008, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, a 35% GDF SUEZ affiliate, achieved sales turnover of 12.4 billion euros.

To know more: www.suez-environnement.com

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This press release is also available at www.ondeo-is.com