



## Press release

### **Clean water and solar energy for Indian mountain villages**

#### **Techem sponsors DESWOS project with 10,000 Euros**

Berlin, November 2009. DESWOS, the German Development Assistance Association for Social Housing celebrates its 40th anniversary at this year's general meeting. Techem GmbH, a globally leading energy service provider for the real estate industry, once again sponsors a DESWOS project and supports the DESWOS anniversary project, by which 40 families in the Indian Nilgiris Mountains receive comprehensive assistance.

They belong to the 162 families of the Paniya tribe, who live at a height of 2,000 metres in a very isolated mountain area and need help. The people's houses are washed away by the monsoon rains every year. The poorest families are invariably the most severely affected, as they live in simple huts without water and power connection, and often in areas hardly fit for settlement. Therefore it makes sense to improve the construction of these simple houses so that they are able to withstand the torrential rain. In the 40th anniversary year of DESWOS, the housing industry's development assistance organization is helping 40 families of the Paniya tribe to build more robust houses in a joint do-it-yourself effort.

Techem supports several Paniya villages with infrastructural community projects. For instance, wells are being built to ensure the supply of drinking water. The wells are equipped with pumps, filters and water tanks and connected to the houses with pipes laid above ground. In future, every family will have clean drinking water at last.



“As an international energy service provider, we want to contribute to providing a little more justice in our world. To this end, we practise usage-bound billing as an incentive for economical use of the limited water resources. In this way, we save some 37 million cubic metres of water every year. But where there is no water or only polluted water, which is a health hazard, we want to help secure the regional drinking water supply. Therefore we supported a DESWOS water project in Tanzania last year, and for this year we have committed ourselves in India”, Ulrich Fischer, Managing Director of Techem Energy Services International, describes Techem’s environmental activities.

The donation from Techem also makes the installation of solar street and localised lighting possible. This is a great achievement, finally bringing light to the dark houses of people living far away from public power supply networks. This will also support the efforts of such people, above all children and adolescents, to acquire an education.

It is also a contribution to safety on mountain roads and a protection against wild animals. The maintenance of solar equipment requires little effort and expense. Young people with some technical understanding are being trained by the DESWOS project partners. The costs are borne by the users in the form of small fees. The families themselves are taking an active part in all of these measures.

DESWOS is a private, non-profit association. It is supported by the associations and their members which are organized under the umbrella of GdW. The mission of DESWOS is to combat housing shortages and poverty in developing countries. This is done by helping people to help themselves in constructing housing for needy families and securing their economic survival. More than 660 housing companies organized in the GdW (Federal Association of German Housing and Real Estate Enterprise Registered Associations) and over 170 private citizens engaged in the housing business are members of DESWOS.



## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

### **About Techem:**

Techem is a leading global service provider for the housing and property industry in the fields of recording, allocating and billing data on energy, water and cooling consumption. Techem stands for customised service packages for the real estate industry in the areas of Energy Services and Energy Contracting and services include consumption metering and the billing of heat, water and cooling. Additionally, Techem offers intelligent systems for saving energy (Techem adapterm), detailed consumption analyses and online services.

### **Techem in brief:**

- Market leader in Germany and in other countries globally
- World market leader in installed radio metering devices
- 652 million Euros turnover worldwide
- More than 2,900 employees worldwide
- Market success for more than 55 years
- Subsidiaries in more than 20 countries

### **More detailed information:**

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