



The takeover bid for Sociedad General de Aguas de Barcelona (AGBAR) concludes successfully

Barcelona, 18 January 2008 .

The joint takeover bid by Criteria CaixaCorp, HISUSA, Suez Environnement and Suez Environnement España (the "bidding companies") for the shares they did not already own in AGBAR has concluded successfully, with acceptances totalling 50,205,817 shares, representing 33.55% of AGBAR's share capital; i.e. 77.06% of the full bid.

Once the transaction is settled, tentatively on January 23rd, 2008, the bidding companies will jointly control 90% of AGBAR's share capital. Criteria Caixa Corp's stake in AGBAR will, directly and indirectly, be 44.10%.

After working together for more than 15 years, the groups led by la Caixa and Suez aim to leverage the success of the takeover to reinforce AGBAR's business project, jointly managing the company in accordance with the criteria laid out in the shareholder pact.

By securing control of AGBAR, Criteria CaixaCorp will be able to reinforce its active management model, predicated on participating in the governing bodies and having significant influence in the decision-making of its investees, in the development of their businesses and in carrying out corporate deals, with the overriding aim of generating significant value for shareholders.

The bidding companies intend to keep AGBAR as a listed company for the next two years, with a free float of around 30%.
