

# Aton Water inks 130m yuan worth of deals

SINGAPORE-BASED Aton Water yesterday announced memorandums of understanding with the Xinmin municipal government of the Chinese city of Shenyang for a 30-year build-operate-transfer (BOT) waste-water treatment plant and a 30-year BOT sludge treatment plant.

Aton Water is 66 per cent owned by Tembusu Growth Fund, which is managed by Tembusu Partners, a Singapore-based pri-

vate equity firm that focuses on investments in growth-stage Singapore or Singapore-related firms. Tembusu Partners managing director Peter Lai said: "Our investments typically have a horizon of two to three years. For Aton Water, we may realise returns for our stakeholders through the listing of a special purpose acquisition company, a trade sale or a direct initial public offer."

The waste-water treat-

ment plant will be in the Hutai industrial district of Xinmin. The estimated total investment is 100 million yuan (\$19.7 million) and the final treatment capacity 100,000 tonnes a day. The first phase, when completed in 2009, will be able to treat 50,000 tonnes a day. The sludge treatment plant, to be built for 30 million yuan, will treat sludge produced by two waste-water treatment plants in Xinmin and adja-

cent districts in Shenyang.

Aton Water has three existing BOT projects and one transfer-operate-transfer (TOT) project in China amounting to 110 million yuan, to be completed by Q4 2008. Legal work to acquire 40 per cent of Shanghai Aton Environmental Industrial Co, through which Aton Water will gain indirect ownership of another four BOT projects and two TOT projects, is set to be tied up within a month.

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