



TO: ALL NEWS EDITOR

December 18, 2017

450,000 MORE HIGH TECH WATER METERS COMING TO NWC

The island's primary water supply service provider, the National Water Commission (NWC), on Friday, December 15, 2017 officially signed a major contractual agreement worth more than 37 million euros to procure 450,000 state-of-the-art solid state water meters over the next 5 years from Diehl Metering of Germany.

The new meters, to be received in instalments over the 2018-2022 5-year period, will be used both on premises that are now unmetered and to replace old mechanical meters on other premises.

The official signing ceremony was done at the Jamaica House Banquet Hall. Main participants in the ceremony moderated by Permanent Secretary Mrs. Audrey Sewell included Dr. Horace Chang, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; German Ambassador to Jamaica Mr. Joachim Christoph Schmillen; President of Diehl Metering, Mr. Frank Gutzeit; Mr. Stefan Raeder, Regional Manager of Diehl Metering; NWC Chairman, Senator Aubyn Hill; and NWC President, Mr. Mark Barnett.

In his welcome remarks, NWC Chairman Senator Aubyn Hill, said that the new water meters are critical in independently and accurately measuring how much water the customer uses and provide the objective basis for calculating how much the customer must pay. Using his own experience, the Chairman pointed out that the meters are extremely accurate and therefore customers must monitor their water use, always mindful that they will be required to pay for the usage captured by the new meters.

German Ambassador to Jamaica, Mr. Joachim Christoph Schmillen, expressed pleasure at the growing business relationships between Jamaican and German companies and expressed the hope that many new investment partnerships will be developed in the future.

Dr. Horace Chang made the argument for reducing Non-Revenue Water (NRW) – the water produced but for which the utility bills no one and gets no payment – the major premise of his full support for the purchase of the new meters. He also emphasized that the improvements in efficiency and viability that the new meters are expected to provide will also contribute to the achievement of Jamaica’s Vision 2030 goals as well as the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

President of Diehl Metering, Mr. Frank Gutzeit, (who along with the Regional Business Development Manager, Mr. Stefan Raeder flew into the island from Germany specifically for the official signing ceremony) said that his company is fully committed to using their 155 years of experience in assisting the National Water Commission to solve problems, improve efficiency and reduce cost.

NWC President Mark Barnett asserted that the solid state meters are among a new generation of metering instruments and technology that NWC is adopting to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Mr. Barnett warned customers to expect an increase in their bills when the new meters are installed as they are far more accurate than the older, under-registering, mechanical meters that are now at many customer premises.

Among the many advantages of the new electronic water meters are:

- Longer useful life of up to 15 years with no moving parts requiring maintenance
- More accurate measurement of water used over the meter’s life
- Easy to read digital display of meter readings that the customer can use to detect leaks
- Greater potential for remote readings.

The new meters are rated among the best in the world and are approved by the Jamaica Bureau of Standards and other regulatory authorities.

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Signed and Sealed: Signing participants display the signed document for the procurement of 450,000 solid state water meters by the National Water Commission from Diehl Metering of Germany. From left to right are Permanent Secretary Mrs. Audrey Sewell; NWC Chairman, Senator Aubyn Hill; Dr. Horace Chang, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; NWC President, Mr. Mark Barnett; German Ambassador to Jamaica Mr. Joachim Christoph Schmillen; President of Diehl Metering, Mr. Frank Gutzeit; and Mr. Stefan Raeder, Regional Manager of Diehl Metering.



Let's Get This Deal Signed: Signatories wait their turn to sign the contract for the procurement of 450,000 solid state water meters from Diehl Metering of Germany under the direction of NWC Legal Officer Sorayya Williams and Communications Director in the Ministry, Winsome Christie. Left to right are Permanent Secretary Mrs. Audrey Sewell; NWC President, Mr. Mark Barnett; NWC Chairman, Senator Aubyn Hill; Minister without portfolio Dr. Horace Chang; German Ambassador to Jamaica Mr. Joachim Christoph Schmillen; and President of Diehl Metering, Mr. Frank Gutzeit;