



*Staff at the opening
of the reverse osmosis
water desalination plant
in Algiers*

“We cannot allow Africa’s great entrepreneurial capacity to be squandered by poor infrastructure systems.”

Robert Mosbacher, Jr., President and CEO of OPIC

A desalination plant project in Algiers provides a model for infrastructure development in Africa. OPIC provided a loan of \$200 million to fund the development, construction, and operations of the first private reverse osmosis desalination project in Algeria.

The desalination plant, which is owned by a joint venture between GE and AEC (of Algeria), is one of the largest in the region and will alleviate severe water shortages in the city of Algiers because of lack of regular rainfall.

The plant will provide a stable supply of clean drinking water sufficient to meet one-quarter of the needs of the city, or roughly 730,000 residents of Algiers. The facility began operations in April, 2008. The successful financing and construction of this plant is serving as a model for other projects of its kind. Currently there are 12 more similar desalination projects being developed in Algeria.

The project is thus not only meeting the urgent potable water needs of the population of Algiers, but is also paving the way for additional plants to meet the needs of residents in other regions of Algeria.