



Global Water Intelligence is proud to announce the shortlisted entries for the 2015 Global Water Awards. Online voting will open soon, and the awards themselves will be presented by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (2004-2014) and Prime Minister of Portugal (2002-2004) at a special ceremony to be held on the evening of the 27 April 2015 at the Nasioutzik Museum, Athens, Greece. The shortlisted entries for the Corporate Water Stewardship Award, the Water Leaders Award and Tech Idol will be made available at a later date.

## Water Performance Initiative of the Year

For the initiative which represents the most significant commitment to improving the long-term performance of water services to the public.

### Gulhi energy-positive desalination, Maldives

#### What is it?

A combined cooling and seawater desalination system for the island of Gulhi in the Maldives.

#### Who is responsible?

The Aquiva Foundation provided the memsys membrane distillation system for the state electric company

#### What makes it special?

- The Maldives are at the forefront of the fight against climate change: a one metre rise in the sea level would obliterate the entire country. At the same time, the islands are dependent on inefficient diesel generators for their electricity supply – and indirectly for their desalinated water supply. This is a challenge, as the growing economy needs more power and water – without adding to greenhouse gas emissions. The Aquiva project squares the circle by using the cooling loop of a diesel generator to drive a membrane distillation unit, producing fresh water and simultaneously achieving a net 8% gain in energy production.
- The membrane distillation unit uses no anti-scalants, which will significantly reduce potential damage to the delicate corals which surround the island.
- The project is run on a social business model by the Aquiva Foundation, enabling the profits from the sale of water to fund further projects in the island nation.