

# Company Line

## Schlumberger Acquires WMC

Last fall, Schlumberger Water Services (SWS) acquired Water Management Consultants (WMC), an international consulting firm. WMC is a 200-person company founded in 1988 that primarily serves the mining, energy, and water resource industries.

Schlumberger employs more than 76,000 people worldwide, providing products and services for the oil and gas industry. SWS was created in 2001 to expand the application of Schlumberger technologies for finding and producing energy resources into the field of water resources management.

Visit [www.slb.com](http://www.slb.com).

## AMEC Acquires Hydrosphere

Also last fall, AMEC, an international engineering and project management

company, announced its acquisition of Hydrosphere Resource Consultants Inc. for \$2.9 million as part of its water resources practice. Boulder, Colorado-based Hydrosphere is a 27-person water resources planning and management company that focuses on management of surface water and groundwater supply assets.

AMEC employs some 19,000 people in 25 countries. The Earth and Environmental division alone has more than 100 offices in North America, offering environmental sciences, engineering, and materials testing and inspection services.

Visit [www.amec.com/earthandenvironmental/](http://www.amec.com/earthandenvironmental/).

## In-Situ Acquires TauTheta

In-Situ Inc. announced its acquisition of TauTheta Instruments LLC, of Boulder, Colorado in October. In-Situ is a leading manufacturer and supplier of on-site

environmental water quality and water quantity monitoring instrumentation. TauTheta develops low-cost optical technologies for environmental, industrial process, food and beverage, and life science applications.

In-Situ was particularly interested in TauTheta's real-time optical oxygen monitoring technology for use in its environmental monitoring instrumentation. TauTheta hopes to benefit from the merger by expanding its market share of the technology within biofermentation and ultra-pure water monitoring applications.

Visit [www.in-situ.com](http://www.in-situ.com) and [www.tautheta.com](http://www.tautheta.com).

## DBS&A Employees Take Ownership

In November, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates Inc. (DBS&A), an Albuquerque-based water resource and environmental consulting firm, announced

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it had transacted an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), making the company employee-owned. According to Dan Stephens, the company's founder and chairman of the board, the ESOP has been part of the firm's ownership transition plan for some time.

Visit [www.dbstephens.com](http://www.dbstephens.com).

## Montgomery & Associates Announces New Service Areas

Errol L. Montgomery and Associates (M&A), with domestic offices in Tucson and Phoenix, recently added two new services to address policy, economic, and engineering constraints on water resource development and use.

Mark Myers and Juliet McKenna joined M&A to lead the new Water Resource Policy and Economics group, formed to keep clients abreast of trends that impact long-term investments in water infrastructure.

Myers has 25 years of experience with both public- and private-sector clients, including facilitating acquisition and management of water resources. McKenna brings 12 years of hydrogeology experience in the public and private sectors, including coordination of interstate aquifer management strategies. The new group's Water Policy Monitoring and Reporting Service offers a monthly newsletter and timely reports on Central Arizona Water Conservation District board and committee meetings, Arizona Water Banking Authority meetings, and selected state agency meetings.

Jim Madole and Joel Peterson joined M&A to head the new Water Resource Engineering group, bringing over 40 years of water and wastewater process engineering experience. The new division combines conventional and emerging technologies to develop targeted, cost-effective water treatment solutions.

Visit [www.elmontgomery.com](http://www.elmontgomery.com).

## Golder Opens Phoenix Office

Golder Associates recently expanded its consulting services in the Southwest by opening a new office in Phoenix, staffed by hydrogeologists Dave Carr, Ron Blegen, Rochelle Destrampe, and Ryan Hort. The office will specialize in water resource and environmental consulting services to the public and private sectors.

Visit [www.golder.com](http://www.golder.com).

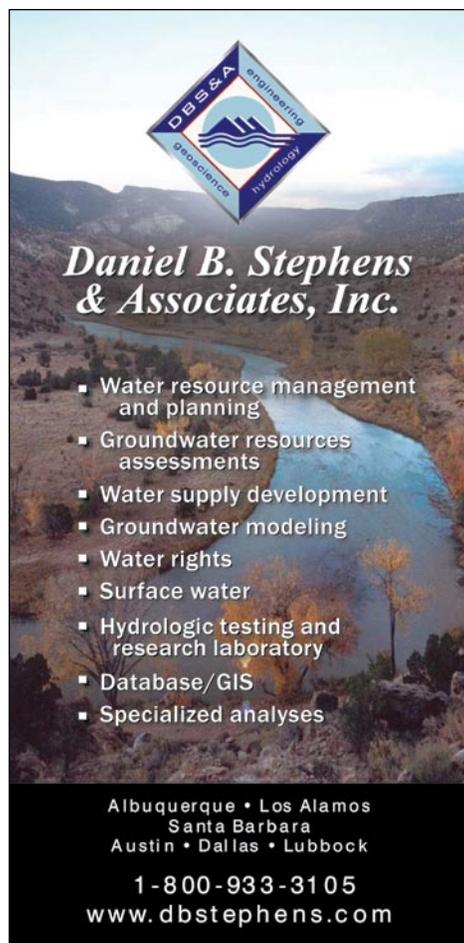
## Water Auction Successful Second Time Around

Last year, *Southwest Hydrology* (Jan/Feb 2007) reported on an attempted auction of treated effluent by the Town of Prescott Valley, Arizona, 85 miles north of Phoenix. That auction was unsuccessful, drawing only one qualified bidder with no offers made at or above the established minimum price of \$28,000 per acre-foot. However, in a two-day auction last fall with a lower minimum price, the town sold its 2,724 acre-feet per year of water for more than \$67 million. Water Property Investors LLC (WPI) won the rights with the highest bid of \$24,650 per acre-foot.

WPI can resell or use the water to meet state water requirements for new developments. Currently only about 1,100 acre-feet of effluent is available for actual use. That quantity will increase over time as development occurs, with a cap of 2,724 acre-feet. Current estimates are that the full amount will be available within three to five years. The water rights must be fully used by 2032 or they will revert back to Prescott Valley, with the town being obliged to pay for the balance that reverts back.

The auction used a bid process developed by WestWater Research LLC. Prescott Valley set a minimum-bid price by negotiating an agreement with Aqua Capital Management LP. The agreement provided the town a guaranteed price of \$19,500 per acre-foot had no qualified bids been received.

Visit [www.waterexchange.com](http://www.waterexchange.com).



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## Hydrogeologists Needed

Water Management Consultants is an international company providing specialized services in groundwater, surface water, geochemistry and engineering.

The company is expanding rapidly and has an interesting and challenging portfolio of projects in the US. Excellent experience and career development is offered to motivated individuals, together with competitive salary and benefits. Suitable candidates are sought for the following vacancies, based in our Tucson, Reno, and Denver Offices:

### Senior Hydrogeologist

A minimum of 7 year experience with a Masters Degree in Hydrology or closely related discipline. Skills in numerical groundwater flow modeling would be a strong advantage.

### Staff and Project Hydrogeologists

Graduate through 4 years experience, with a Masters Degree in Hydrology or closely related discipline. Strong ability in numerical and analytical hydrogeology and a willingness to participate in field programs.

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Piccola Dowling:  
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