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**NEWS**

**Combining water, energy to push for growth**

Swiss-based company Trunz Water Systems has developed an entrepreneurial-driven business model, NEXUS Center Concept, to deliver safe drinking water and electricity at affordable prices to low-income rural consumers in developing and emerging countries. The project installs a network of 'off-grid' water and energy hubs called NEXUS Centers, with water treatment systems and solar power centres at their core in remote areas.

"Water and energy are very closely inter-connected and highly inter-dependent. Both have crucial impacts on poverty alleviation as a number of the MDGs depend on major improvements in access to water, sanitation, power and energy sources. The NEXUS Center will thus become a true one-stop retail and infrastructure facility to gather community members, help promote local development and create employment opportunities," says Lars Willi, CEO of Trunz.

NEXUS Centers will first be installed, managed and operated in collaboration with four partner entities: a local partner enterprise, an investor, Trunz Water Systems and a locally embedded NGO.

Beyond providing safe drinking water, the system also allows additional revenue-generating opportunities such as refrigeration, charging of electronic devices, space for medical treatment and small businesses, access to the internet and hygiene products. This modular approach also enables tailored services and products towards the specific community needs, offering partnership opportunities with tele-communication providers, micro-finance institutions and local businesses.

The Trunz technology will be a key component of the water and energy hubs: the innovative and environmentally friendly technology produces clean energy and safe drinking water from contaminated fresh and salt water with solar and wind energy. It removes all viruses, bacteria, chemical contaminants and salts without requiring toxic chemical treatment.

Trunz has brought their works to the region, particularly to residents of Dosti Nagar and Baunamau villages (in the district of Unnao in Uttar Pradesh) in India. These villagers were once compelled to consume fluoride contaminated water, causing fluorosis and other water-borne diseases. But thanks to a successful collaborations, the villagers now have access to safe and healthy drinking water.

The Water Shop, an entrepreneurial-driven model, delivers safe water at an affordable price to low income rural consumers in India. Using solar-powered Trunz Water Systems technology, the Water Shop purifies locally sourced water to the same level as bottled water, minus the costs associated with sealing or transporting this water. Registered customers can dispense water into clean jerry cans, which are provided by the operator managing the Water Shop.

"Safe drinking water is a basic human necessity and is essential for sustainable development and prosperity," Willi added.

Trunz Water Systems AG is a Swiss-based company that develops, manufactures and distributes water purification and desalination and energy supply systems. Awarded with the Swiss Export Award in 2012, Trunz is dedicated to develop sustainable projects in collaboration with its partners in core areas like rural villages, schools, disaster relief, oil and mining, hotels and the military. For more information, visit [www.trunzwatersystems.com](http://www.trunzwatersystems.com) (<http://www.trunzwatersystems.com>)

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