

Iran Plans Wastewater Treatment Plant in Shahriar

TEHRAN, Iran (OOSKAnews

Correspondent) -- Iranian authorities plan to build a wastewater treatment plant in Shahriar, southwest of Tehran. The plant will be built with financial assistance from a regional multilateral development bank. The West Towns of Tehran Province Water & Wastewater Company, the local water firm, issued an international notice for expressions of interest for a qualified project management consultant for the project. The consultant will assist the utility in selecting contractors and would manage both the consultant and the contractor. It will also facilitate effective communication between the water company, the bank and other project stakeholders. Tehran Province Water and Wastewater Company has applied for some \$25 million USD in financing from the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank (ECO Trade and Development Bank) for construction of the wastewater treatment plant. The bank was established in 2005 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. The wastewater treatment plant will be the first in the city and will serve a population of about 180,000. It is the latest in a series of wastewater treatment projects being undertaken by regional water authorities in Iran to bolster the country's poor wastewater network and infrastructure. In Iran, about 98 percent of people have access to potable water, a figure that is expected to reach 100 percent by 2025. But wastewater infrastructure in the country remains poor. Iranian authorities have planned investments in this sector, offering business opportunities to foreign investors. Currently, about 24 percent of Iranian cities have a wastewater network. The plan is to bring this figure up to 60 percent in 2025. For rural wastewater networks, that figure is expected to reach 30 percent by 2025. Bids for the Shahriar consultancy contract are to be submitted by April 4. Foreign consulting firms can participate in the tender by forming joint ventures with Iranian companies. An official of the West Towns of Tehran Province Water and Wastewater Company told OOSKAnews that the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant has not been fixed but it will include a pipeline network of over 132 kilometers and collect wastewater from a population of over 180,000. The \$25 million USD in financing from the Eco Bank is expected to come through in the next two to three months, and construction on the project could begin by next year. The overall project cost could be as much as double the amount sought from the Eco Bank, the official indicated. The Iranian government has reportedly earmarked over \$14 billion USD for the water and wastewater sectors over the next few years. Of this amount, \$5 billion USD is meant exclusively for expanding wastewater treatment infrastructure.