

Ion Exchange inks 50:50 JV with Waterleau Group

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ION EXCHANGE, the Rs 280-crore water treatment company, has entered into a 50:50 joint venture with Belgium company — Fifth Element — commonly known as the Waterleau Group. Waterleau is engaged in the business of design, engineering, procurement (EPC contracting) and operation & maintenance (O&M) of air, water, waste and new ener-

gy projects. The joint venture will bring together the strengths of the two companies in technology, expertise and commercial network in the water treatment and environmental business. "This joint venture will combine Ion Exchange's experience in sewage water treatment and water purification with Waterleau's expertise in solid waste treatment and air pollution management. The estimated market in India, sewage water and solid waste treatment is Rs 4,500 crore, and is

growing annually at the rate of 10-12%," says Mr Ajay Papat, CEO of Ion Exchange Waterleau. With this JV, Ion Exchange now plans to enter the solid waste treatment

and air pollution market. The company will cater not only to India but also Asia. The JV will provide a one-stop environmental solution to industries and municipal-

ities for waste water and sewage treatment, solid waste treatment and disposal, hazardous waste management, air pollution control and renewable energy generation.

According to the 2001 Census, only 30% of sewage is treated in India whereas municipal waste of about 28 million tonnes per year is hardly treated at all.

