



EPM submitted a conditional binding offer for the acquisition of 100% of the shares of Empresas Públicas de Rionegro – EP RIO

- **This is a testimony to the company's commitment to the region, according to EPM CEO, Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta**
- **Approximately COP 550 thousand million will be invested over the coming years in the aqueduct and sewage systems, amount that includes as well the development of the Rionegro section of the EPM project in San Nicolás Valley to bring drinking water to 16 districts in various municipalities.**
- **A link between the La Fe reservoir and the Rionegro system will provide a definitive solution to the drinking water issues in the region.**
- **In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability, EPM will put forward its plans for treating wastewater in Rionegro.**
- **In Rionegro and the Near East of Antioquia, EPM wants to push ahead as part of an overall developmental vision to attract more investment.**

“At EPM we are making good on our promise to provide sustainable development to Antioquia, and on this occasion we are reaching out to Rionegro to improve the quality and coverage of the public services we provide. This will lead to better growth and well-being in the region.” The words of EPM CEO Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta, as he officially made the conditional binding offer to the Municipality of Rionegro for the acquisition of 100% of the shares of Empresas Públicas de Rionegro S.A. E.S.P. (EP RIO), public utility services provider of aqueduct and sewer for this eastern region of Antioquia.

He also added that the main aim of EPM is to “create better conditions, so that the company can reach other nearby eastern regions, bringing those benefits to around another 200,000 people. This is vital for a region that has seen a 500% increase in property sales over the last 7 years. Furthermore, supporting environmental sustainability in this region, particularly by investing in the treatment of wastewater, protects water sources for humans.”

If the conditional offer is accepted within the 8-day term, the purchase of the shares will go ahead, and EPM will take charge of the estimated COP 550 thousand million investment plan. Over the next few years, the development of the Rionegro section of the San Nicolás Valley project will continue, providing drinking water to 16 districts in the municipalities of El Retiro, Rionegro and Envigado. EP RIO will also work towards an interconnection between the aqueduct system to the La Fe reservoir, the eventual solution to the issues with the smell and color of the local water. This project, as well as the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant in 2021, will provide a significant improvement in the quality, coverage, and continuity of the service, as well as the optimal operation of the current water treatment system.

The connection between the La Fe reservoir and Rionegro will make the municipality’s water supply more stable, as it currently only has access to one water source, which is unreliable and extremely polluted.

The wastewater from Rionegro will be treated before entering the river Nare, which flows into Guatapé; the largest hydroelectric reservoir in the country, which currently has a high concentration of cyanobacteria, mostly derived from domestic wastewater from Rionegro.

A city region

Over the last 5 years, EP RIO has faced enormous difficulties in meeting the demands for drinking water in the increasingly urbanized area, and stopping wastewater that doesn’t meet current regulations from affecting water sources. The EP RIO system doesn’t have the capacity to meet the current or future demands of Rionegro, and requires immediate financial investment, as well as technical know-how, to modernize and expand the infrastructure of public utilities, networks and equipment in the municipality.

In Rionegro and the Near East of Antioquia, EPM wants to push ahead as part of an overall developmental vision to attract more investment. The EPM CEO emphasizes that “due to the close relationship between environmental systems, productions dynamics and economic rewards, housing and development processes, Rionegro, together with Valle de Aburrá, makes up a city region where domestic services must be the foundation of equitable territorial development”.

Information for journalists

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