

Multimillion research funds for 5 water firms

SINGAPORE — Five water companies will receive about \$1 million worth of research funds each to carry out research and development on improving their product offerings to the global water industry.

This was announced by the Environment and Water Industry Programme Office yesterday.

Technology giant Siemens and home-grown company Ultra-

Flo aim to improve their range of membrane products by developing novel membrane types and new membrane processes for applications like brackish and seawater desalting.

DHI Water and Environment, which was awarded funding for two proposals, and OptoTech both plan to leverage on their existing capabilities to produce the next genera-

tion of sensors for microorganisms and other water parameters.

Natflow intends to develop a combined heating, cooling and desalination system by integrating these three technologies, which are currently used in isolation.

By 2015, the environment and water sector is expected to contribute \$1.7 billion to Singapore's gross domestic product.