

## Caern to increase Natal sanitation coverage for 2014 World Cup - Brazil

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Brazil's Rio Grande do Norte state water utility Caern intends to improve its sewage collection coverage in state capital Natal from 33% to 73% in time for the 2014 World Cup, the utility reported in a release.

The service boost will lift the city out of its poor sewage collection ranking among World Cup host cities, according to Marcelo Cortes Neri, head of the center for social research for economic thinktank Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV).

"Natal has the lowest sewerage coverage service of all the 2014 World Cup host cities," Cortes Neri said at a press conference.

A study carried out earlier this year by NGO Instituto Trata Brasil (ITB) in cooperation with FGV analyzed sanitation services in the host cities, revealing that Manaus (Amazonas state), Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul) and Natal have the lowest sanitation coverage.

### FUNDING

Caern intends to invest 323.7mn reais (US\$186mn) in sanitation projects, of which 283.3mn reais will be spent on improving the city's sewerage system and 40.4mn reais will be invested in its water supply network.

In addition to this investment, the utility is requesting 216mn reais in funding from the country's growth acceleration plan (PAC), from programs such as the Saneamento para Todos (sanitation for everyone) program, the national tourism development program Prodetur and the national health foundation.

Resources will also come from the federal budget and the tourism ministry.

The funding will enable Natal to reach 73% sewerage collection coverage, with southern Natal expected to reach 100% coverage.

### PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Caern's Baldo central wastewater treatment plant is expected to begin operations in March, treating wastewater in 21 neighborhoods.

The utility is also constructing the Jundiá treatment plant and the Barreira do Inferno underwater pipeline, which aim to solve the lack of sewage collection services in southern Natal.

The city will also receive three new potable water pipelines totaling 6,743m in length. A fourth will be rehabilitated, requiring 28,291m of pipelines. This will increase water supply by over 21%, the report said.

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