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## \$250M Honolulu Seawater A/C project signs on Central Pacific Bank headquarters

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Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC's \$250 million project to cool Downtown Honolulu office buildings and condominiums has signed up **Central Pacific Bank's corporate** headquarters at the corner of King and Alakea streets, the firm said Tuesday.

The agreement with Central Pacific Plaza is the project's first new customer in 2015 and follows other customers such as **The Queen's Medical Center**, the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Federal Building and Courthouse, **Hawaiian Electric Co.**, **Finance Factors Ltd.**, First Hawaiian Center, Alakea Corporate Tower and One Waterfront Towers.

When completed, the system will pump cold seawater from more than four miles offshore into a cooling station behind the former Gold Bond Building on Ala Moana Boulevard. The seawater will pass through heat exchangers, cooling off freshwater circulating in a closed pipeline system that, in turn, will cool downtown buildings.

The project has been in the works for more than a decade, [but has picked up some major momentum](#) with a new majority owner in **eBay** founder [Pierre Omidyar](#)'s impact investment firm Ulupono Initiative and the signing of several major customers.

The company estimates that, on average, customers could save anywhere from 5 percent to 15 percent on their annual cooling costs. It is in the process of finalizing its permits and hopes to start construction later this year, beginning service to customers in March 2017.

Other places seawater cooling systems would work in Hawaii include Waikiki, Kakaako, Ko Olina, Pearl Harbor, Poipu on Kauai and Kahului on Maui.

In the U.S., there are no commercial scale district cooling projects that utilize seawater, although there is a small project on the Big Island that has been running for decades.

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.