



One of BiAqua's founding fathers wins prestigious water prize

Delft, 29 March 2012

Professor Mark van Loosdrecht of the Environmental Biotechnology group of the Technical University of Delft will receive the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Water prize at the special award ceremony during the Singapore International Water Week. Professor van Loosdrecht is especially recognized for his groundbreaking work on biological water treatment processes, e.g. the Annamox and Nereda process. Previous winners of the prize include the founder of Zenon, Andrew Benedek and Professor Gatze Lettinga, the pioneer of anaerobic water treatment.

Together with Professor Fred Hagen, of the enzymology department, Professor van Loosdrecht developed the bio-adsorbent that is the core of BiAqua's phosphate removal technology. BiAqua collaborates closely with the inspiring staff and laboratories of both professors, while the technology is further developed into a commercial process. Both professors van Loosdrecht and Hagen serve on BiAqua's advisory board.

BiAqua congratulates professor van Loosdrecht with this impressive achievement and looks forward to years of fruitful collaboration.

About BiAqua

BiAqua has developed a bio-based solution to address biofouling, a major issue in membrane based water processing systems worldwide (reverse osmosis / desalination systems). This market estimated at 50 M m³ per day is expected to increase to over 64 M m³ per day by 2015 according to Global Water Intelligence. At approximate cost of €1 per m³, this market represents annual investment of €23.4 billion. Faster depreciation, most maintenance requirement, etc. related to bio-fouling represent €0.19 per m³ in costs for each desalination / RO installation (Biaqua Research). This represents a problem of over €4.4 billion annually and does not include the cost of interruptions, energy and administrative & logistical inconvenience for each installation.

The company is a spinout of TU Delft that attracted institutional capital from Icos Capital, the specialist cleantech investor, in 2009. The unique solution, at Biaqua, pioneered at TU Delft by Delft professors Fred Hagen and Mark van Loosdrecht, is able to proactively address biofouling through removal of key nutrients that result in elimination of bacteria that cause biofouling.

The team is currently based out of its laboratories and office in Delft and has a Business office in Badhoevedorp in the Netherlands. Further information about the company and technology can be directed to

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