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Biaqua strengthens team: Rob van der Meij agreed to join the company as CEO.

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.

Rob van der Meij joins Biaqua after being active in both the corporate (Akzo Nobel, Shell Chemicals, Gemini Consulting) and venture capital financed start-up world (KiOR, Hermes Catalyst, FluXXion). Rob has an extensive international experience in technology development and market introduction, business management, as well as successfully fundraising capital from institutional investors. He is chemical engineer from the Technical University Delft, the Netherlands.

Appointment of Rob follows the appointment of Lute Broens as Non-Executive Chairman of the management team. Lute is a serial entrepreneurs who has successfully built, established and sold X-Flow to Norit. He has served as Director Business Development and before that as Head of Ultra filtration technology business. He is a board member of European Desalination Society and one of the very well known entrepreneurs in the Netherlands.

Nityen Lal, General Partner of Icos Capital states; We are delighted to have strong managers like Rob van der Meij to the team as his strong experience in building start-ups and international business skills is exactly what the company needs to achieve substantial commercial success worldwide.

Rob van der Meij, CEO of Biaqua states; Biaqua has established itself amongst the top technology companies to address the biofouling problem worldwide. This bio-based solution, validated numerous times in different settings, is cost effective and order of magnitude better than existing solutions in the market and helps to improve efficiency in water purification systems. I am looking forward to work in this team and steering the company to strong growth in the coming years.

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 Product Development office in Delft and Business office in Badhoevedorp (Schiphol Airport) in the Netherlands. Further information about the project and technology can be directed to

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