

Aqwise is developing an advanced biological treatment system for drinking water Nitrate contamination

Aqwise signed a cooperation agreement with "Mekorot", Israel's national water company, for field-testing the system

Israel, March 24, 2009 – Aqwise, provider of advanced solutions for wastewater treatment, has signed a cooperation agreement with "Mekorot", Israel's national water company, for field-testing an advanced biological treatment technology for Nitrate contamination in drinking water. The agreement was signed in the framework of WaTech™, Mekorot's entrepreneurship, investments and partnership center for water technologies.

Aqwise has recently begun developing innovative solutions for contaminants removal from drinking water. These solutions are based on the unique technology, extensive knowledge and competences that were achieved in the company in the field of biological treatment of wastewater, through the development and implementation of its moving-bed technology, AGAR® (Attached Growth Airlift Reactor) process, utilizing biomass carriers.

Nitrate is one of the most common contaminants of groundwater in the world and origins in agricultural fertilization, cesspits and dairy farming. Tens of thousands of wells in the US and in Europe contain Nitrate concentration that exceed permitted standard. As a result, a significant part of the wells is closed and millions of cubes of potential drinking water are not being used.

Global water crisis and the increasing shortage in pure water on the one hand, and the strengthening water quality regulation on the other hand, open Aqwise a new potential market of over a billion dollars per year. Biological treatment for Nitrate contamination has clear advantages compared with existing technologies, mainly in saving capital and operation expenditures and in the lack of need to treat the brine stream created during the Nitrate removal process in conventional treatment alternatives.

Elad Frenkel, CEO of Aqwise, commented "The company engages in constant research and development of innovative technologies for wastewater treatment and is glad to penetrate the drinking water treatment field, thus significantly expanding its potential target market. Cost-effective groundwater contamination treatment has a great importance, especially nowadays, when global water crisis becomes severe. The cooperation with 'Mekorot' is strategic for the company".

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CEO of "Mekorot", Ido Rosolio, said that "The cooperation with Aqwise will not only help to field-test their new technology, but can help us find an efficient and environmentally-friendly solution for drinking water contamination. Such solution can restore tens of thousands of cubes of drinking water to Israel's water reserves".

Aqwise is a world leader in the development and implementation of advanced wastewater treatment solutions for the Industrial and Municipal markets. Aqwise's proprietary AGAR[®] (Attached Growth Airlift Reactor) family of solutions significantly increases the capacity and efficiency of existing wastewater treatment plants, while offering compact and scalable deployments of new plants.

In addition, Aqwise was named a finalist of Red Herring 100 Europe 2009, an award given to the top 100 private technology companies based in the EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region each year.

WaTech[™] manages Mekorot's Technological cooperations worldwide and helps find new solutions for the company's technological needs, while commercializing the cooperations and vast knowledge accumulated in Mekorot throughout the years. As part of the cooperations, WaTech[™] aids characterizing and defining products and technologies, and may even invest in companies, all this considering its business models. In the framework of its activity, WaTech[™] puts an emphasis on finding green technologies, amongst which contaminants removal from water sources technologies, environmentally friendly disinfection systems and environmental hazards identification technologies.

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