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British sludge-processing technology sonix™ wins prestigious innovation award;

Co-developer Atkins Water announces plans to open US office

Sonix™, a novel technology using ultrasound to treat wastewater and sludge, has scooped the top prize for Innovative Process Technology at the 2003 IWEX Innovation Awards.

The IWEX panel judged that sonix's™ technological innovation not only created a compelling business proposition for its developers, joint venture Sonico, but also contributed to the development of the wider wastewater industry. Sonico is a joint venture between the process contracting firm Purac Ltd and the engineering consultancy Atkins.

Dr Piers Clark, managing director of Sonico and Atkins Water said, "We're delighted that sonix™ has won yet more recognition from industry experts."

"This reflects a growing interest in the technology from water companies not just in the UK but worldwide."

It is original and effective solutions such as sonix™, coupled with a respected consulting and contracting heritage in one of the world's toughest water markets, which Atkins believes will offer wastewater utilities around the world real benefits.



Revealing plans to open an Atkins Water California office early in 2004, Dr Clark adds, "This is an exciting time for Atkins and its partners. Initial work with US water companies has been extremely constructive so the logical step is to bring our capabilities closer to our American clients."



Press Release

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Information for editors:

Sonico is a joint venture between Purac Limited and Atkins Water

Atkins: One of the world's leading providers of professional, technologically-based consultancy and support services, with offices in the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

Our portfolio of skills embraces engineering consultancy, design, management consultancy, IT, asset management, environmental services, project finance, project services, outsourcing, and property services. We work with public and private sector clients in a range of markets, including rail, roads, telecoms, nuclear, aviation, water, power, process, health, education, and defence.

Atkins Water supplies exceptional technologically-based consultancy and support services for the water and water-related environmental sector worldwide. We work across the entire life cycle of water, from source to sea, and throughout the entire project value chain. Our services include studies, design, construction management, expert witness, asset management, due diligence, regulatory advice and institutional advice. Be it in delivering schemes, programming investment, benchmarking services, or in flood management, water supply, wastewater disposal or infrastructure development, Atkins Water adds value.

Purac Ltd: A process engineering, technology and project management company specialising in the water, wastewater and environmental sector. In business since the mid 1960s, now part of awg PLC providing a range of services to municipal and industrial clients.

Offering a range of solutions that encompass both programme and project management, full "turnkey" to the provision of individual specialist services that we call *PURACapability*.

Renowned for blending technology and creativity with a forward thinking approach to working with clients and partners. In short we're as much about building relationships as we are about building works.

For more information about the sonix™ technology please visit Sonico's website at www.sonico.net.