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Award-Winning Technology sonix™ Set to Create Largest Ultrasonic Sludge Digestion Plant in World

Forward-looking New Zealand utility impressed by enhanced digestion, cost-effectiveness and environmental credentials of sonix™

Following highly successful trials, New Zealand's water and wastewater utility, Watercare Services, is to install seventy-eight sonix™ ultrasound horns at their flagship Mangere Water Reclamation Plant, serving a population of 800,000 near Auckland.

This will create the world's largest ultrasonic plant for treating sewage sludge.

sonix™, which has won industry awards for innovation, uses intense ultrasound waves to cause cell lysis prior to anaerobic digestion, optimising digester performance.



And with environmental regeneration and sustainability a key driver behind Watercare Services' investment at Mangere, sonix™ was selected not only for its operational benefits but its 'green' credentials too.

By improving the digestion process using sonix™, Watercare Services will be able to realise greater quantities of biogas, making better use of co-generation facilities on site. Treatment with sonix™ also minimises chemical usage for activities such as sludge dewatering, lime stabilisation and foam control.

Dr Piers Clark, Managing Director of Sonico, the joint-venture which has brought sonix™ to the market, believes this installation marks an exciting new chapter in the technology's development:

"Using ultrasound to treat sludge is a pretty novel concept. We have shown that sonix™ works, but never before at this scale. The Mangere plant gives us a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate just what an effective solution ultrasound can be for large wastewater utilities worldwide."

"It is gratifying to see sonix™ adopted by a forward-thinking organisation like Watercare Services that will really extract the full benefits from our technology: immediate improvements to sludge digestion and payback through energy savings and reduced biosolids – everything sonix™ was designed for."



For more information on sonix™ contact Piers Clark at Sonico Limited or visit www.sonico.net:

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Information for editors:

Sonico Limited

Sonico is a joint venture organisation between WS Atkins plc, a leading firm of consulting engineers and Purac Limited, a process house which is a subsidiary of awg. Sonico provides a novel solution for wastewater and sludge treatment; sonix™ is a patented high power ultrasound system.

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 Limited

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.