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Swedish sonix™ installation dramatically confirms its value

Kävlinge, in the southern region of Sweden, is proud host to the world's first full scale sonix™ installation. Yet this 12kW installation, constructed in October 2002 and fully commissioned in January 2003, has been a well-kept secret. Why haven't we shouted about it until now? It's a question of data...

Following the sonix™ installation, biogas production showed a marked improvement. At the same time however, the site's two digesters were converted from a mesophilic (35°C) to a thermophilic (50°C) operation, and the digester retention time was reduced to nine days.

Although the sonix™ was clearly doing the job for which it was intended, it was not possible to state exactly how much of the biogas improvement was due to sonix™ and how much to the new, higher operating temperatures.

Then in April 2004, the sonix™ plant required its first routine service to replace the stacks. For the first time since installation, data for the sonix™ performance could be collected: the results were even more dramatic than anticipated.

As soon as the sonix™ plant was taken down, gas production began to drop rapidly. In fact, the reduction in biogas was so great that without sonix™ running, emergency oil supplies had to be bought in to make up the power deficit.

Tom Nielsen, Director of Operations at Kävlinge said of this new data: "Operations at Kävlinge are complicated, with many factors influencing overall plant performance. However we are convinced that the sonix™ is delivering a significant improvement to our digester performance, complimenting the thermophilic digestion."

"The recent servicing of the sonix™ plant provided an encouraging endorsement of the sonix performance."

We knew it was working: now we know just how well. You can guarantee that our first large-scale sonix™ plant won't be a secret any longer.

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.