

Weir consolidates water business

Weir Group has brought together its process technology companies Weir Westgarth, Weir Entropie and Weir Envig under a single division known as Weir Techna.

The new group will provide an integrated service for desalination, water and effluent treatment applications, concentration, drying and crystallization of process solutions, chilling and heat recovery systems.

According to Weir Techna's managing director, Paul Capell, the group was formed because expansion in each of the three individual companies had resulted in a number of overlapping activities.

In the group, Weir Westgarth develops and manufactures desalination technology, including the patented the Multi Stage Flash system, which it says accounts for more than 70% of today's desalinated water requirements. It also offers other processes such as reverse osmosis, thermo-compression, multiple effect distillation and electrodialysis. Weir Entropie specialises in thermal processes and Weir Envig is a South African industrial water treatment company, serving the water, effluent and process industries.

Contact: Weir Techna, 149 Newlands Road, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 4EX, UK. Tel: +44 141 633 1336; Fax: +44 141 633 3289; E-mail: water@www.weir.co.uk; Website: www.weirwestgarth.com

Amersham expands into biofiltration

Amersham Biosciences, the life sciences business of Amersham plc, is expanding its filtration and separation activities with the recent acquisition of AG Technology and InnovaSep Technology.

According to Amersham, the total consideration will range from US\$40-60 million depending on performance of the companies over the next six years. The addition of the two companies to its separations business will broaden Amersham's bioprocessing offering to biopharmaceutical customers.

Founded in 1981, AG Technology is an established supplier of filtration systems for the production of biopharmaceuticals, including hollow fibre filtration technology. The company has 28 employees and estimated annual sales of \$9 million, which Amersham says has recently grown at a rate of approximately 20% a year. InnovaSep Technology is a recently founded company offering several new, patent-pending membrane filtration technologies.

Peter Ehrenheim, executive vice president of the separations division of Amersham Biosciences, says the company's move into filtration technology is a natural extension of its business and the acquisitions give it an immediate position in the filtration market. In addition, he says the companies give Amersham the opportunity to develop integrated solutions that will make the manufacture of biopharmaceuticals more efficient in the future.

Contact: Amersham Pharmacia Biotech Inc, 800 Centennial Avenue, PO Box 1327, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1327, USA. Tel: +1 732 457 8000; Fax: +1 732 457 0557; Website: www.amershambiosciences.com

Decanter buys centrifuge component manufacturer

Industrial centrifuge manufacturer Decanter Machine Inc has acquired the assets of Diversified Machine Products LLC, a South Carolina, USA, based manufacturer of centrifuge products and components. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Diversified will now operate under the name of Decanter Diversified Machine Inc, and Ken Robinette, president of Decanter Machine, will also serve as president of the South Carolina firm.

According to the company, the acquisition will strengthen its repair and on-site service capabilities for wastewater treatment customers, and accelerate production and delivery of centrifuge products and services. Decanter currently offers custom designed and manufactured screenbowl, solid bowl and three phase centrifuges, as well as a complete rebuild and exchange programme for most major brands of decanter centrifuges. It also offers field service in all phases from start-up to production problems.

Contact: Decanter Machine Inc, 3622 Bristol Highway, Johnson City, TN 37601, USA. Tel: +1 423 282 5599; E-mail: info@decantermachine.com; Website: www.decantermachine.com

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fax 512-447-7444
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