### Generating resources from wastewater through biotechnology



**Environment Day** 

Date: 05-06-2014 Place: FIESP, São Paulo/SP Author: Sérgio Cruz



### Who is Paques?

- Founded in 1960
- Number of employees : 400
- Innovative biological solutions to purify wastewater and gas

#### Paques helps companies to:

- Meet safe water discharge requirements
- Reduce water consumption
- Produce green gas & upgrade biogas
- Recover valuable elements from used water











### **Applications and Technologies**

| AREA                    | APPLICATION  | TECHNOLOGIES  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| CARBON                  | ANAEROBIC & AEROBIC<br>WASTEWATER<br>TREATMENT                                     | BIOPAQ <sup>®</sup> IC<br>BIOPAQ <sup>®</sup> UASB+<br>BIOPAQ <sup>®</sup> AFR<br>BIOPAQ <sup>®</sup> UBOX<br>CIRCOX <sup>®</sup> |
| SULPHUR                 | (BIOGAS)<br>DESULPHURISATION   | THIOPAQ <sup>®</sup><br>BIODESOX <sup>®</sup>   |
| NITROGEN &<br>PHOSPHATE | (DE)NITRIFICATION<br>PHOSPHATE RECOVERY  | ANAMMOX®<br>PHOSPAQ™<br>ASTRASAND®  |
| METALS &<br>CHEMICALS   | METALS RECOVERY<br>SULPHIDE PRODUCTION<br>SULPHATE REDUCTION<br>CHEMICALS RECOVERY | THIOTEQ <sup>™</sup><br>SULFATEQ <sup>™</sup><br>BIOMETEQ <sup>™</sup><br>IONPAQ <sup>™</sup>                                     |
| SEPARATION              | BIOFILTRATION AND<br>SOLIDS REMOVAL<br>MEMBRANE FILTRATION                         | ASTRASAND <sup>®</sup><br>ASTRASEPARATOR <sup>®</sup>   |



### **Scope and Partners**

- Process design
- Basic and detailed engineering
- Manufacturing
- Contracting
- Construction
- Research & Development
- Laboratory services
- Pilot testing









### References

Worldwide leader in anaerobic treatment. More than 2.000 plants installed in more than 60 countries in the following industries:

- Pulp and Paper
- Beer and Beverages
- Food
- Distilleries

- Chemical industry
- Metal and Mining
- Oil and Gas
- Municipalities

Since 1984 in Brazil - more than 200 plants installed.

### **Ecological impact**

- 10 million tons of organic pollution treated per year
- Enough biogas produced to supply 3 million households with energy
- Reduction of CO2 emissions by 25 million kg/day



### **Anaerobic wastewater treatment**



#### $COD \longrightarrow CH_4 + CO_2 + BIOMASS$

#### Anaerobic methanogenic biomass

- Production of reusable methane (green energy)
- Low sludge production (& biomass is asset rather than waste)
- Granular biomass



Anaerobic biomass



### **BIOPAQ<sup>®</sup>IC** anaerobic reactor

- High rate (20-30 kg COD/m<sup>3</sup>/d)
- Small footprint
- Low hydraulic retention time
- Self regulating system
- Intensely mixed biomass at bottom reactor
- Optimal sludge retention at top reactor
- 1.000 installed worldwide

#### BIOPAQ®IC, how it works

- Industrial wastewater enters the reactor and is mixed with the granular anaerobic biomass in the distribution system
- 2 Organic components are converted into methane (biogas)
- Biogas is collected in the lower phase separator, generating a 'gas lift'
- 4 The water is forced upwards in the riser
- 5 Gas leaves the reactor in the liquid/gas separator
- 6 Water returns through the downer into the distribution system. Hence the name: Internal Circulation
- 7 The effluent is polished in the second, upper compartment
- 8 The biogas from the second compartment is collected in the upper phase separator
- 9 Effluent exits the reactor















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### Botian Sugar Yian Qiqihaer Food China 200 tpd COD



### **THIOPAQ®: Biogas desulphurisation**



Hydrogen sulphide is converted to hydrophilic sulphur Spent caustic is biologically regenerated to ~90%

### Why choose THIOPAQ®

- Deep H<sub>2</sub>S removal: below 25 ppm
- High uptime and reliable process: 98% uptime, no plugging
- No air or oxygen input in biogas
- Low total cost of ownership: 90% reduction on caustic consumption
- Sulfur production: fertilizer or fungicide

### **THIOPAQ®** applications

Industrial biogas

• Landfill gas

Natural gas

Associated gas

Solids digester biogas

- Refinery gas





## Verbio AG **Bioenergy** Germany 3 tpd S E p 100





#### Weltec Biopower Bioenergy Germany 35 kpd S 1.800 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h



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# FERTIPAQ<sup>®</sup>: Sulfur back to nature as fertilizer





Currently, 20.000 tons of biosulfur per year are produced by THIOPAQ<sup>®</sup> installations worldwide

- Color: white/yellowish
- Smell: none to neutral
- Density: 1.3 kg/liter
- S-content: 600 g/liter
- Easy dilution with water (Hydrophilic)
- Very fine particles 2 –10 microns
- No blocking of sprays
- Long term nutrition effect in the soil





# Closing the cycle: converting wastewater into energy and fertilizer



A brewery that produces 1 million liters/day of beer will also produce 3.000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/day of biogas



# Closing the cycle: converting wastewater into energy and fertilizer



A distillery that produces 1 million liters/day of ethanol can also produce 83.000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/day of biogas



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## Under research: bioplastic from wastewater





- Poly-b-hydroxyalkanoate (PHA)
  - Common and widespread storage material in microorganisms
- Storage up to 90 wt% in granules
- Properties similar to petrochemical plastics
- Biodegradable
- Made from renewable resources

TUDelft Delft University of Technology

Van Loosdrecht & Kleerebezem

### First results: bioplastic from chocolate!



### **UBOX®: How it all started...**



**Conventional domestic sewage treatment (WWTP Piracicamirim – Piracicaba/SP)** 







### **UBOX®: All-in-one**



AIR

- 2. 3-PHASE SEPARATOR
- 3. AERATION SYSTEM
- 4. SETTLER
- 5. GAS SCRUBBER







### **UBOX®** design





ÁREA TOTAL: 2.146 m2







### **UBOX®: Footprint savings**





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### **UBOX®: Advantages**

### Low operational cost:

- 40% reduction on energy consumption
- 60% reduction on sludge generation
- No chemicals required
- OPEX < R\$ 0,20/m<sup>3</sup> treated

### Low environmental impact

- Zero odour emissions
- Efficiency: BOD removal > 90%
- Small footprint

### • High durability

All reactor components built in PP,
 HDPE and stainless steel









### Brazil: Quick market analysis

| SECTOR                      | UNITS<br>SOLD | DEMAND    | THREATS   | OPPORTUNITIES  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|---|--|
| Food, Beer<br>and Beverages | 123           | Very high | <ul><li>Competition</li><li>Slow economy</li></ul>  | <ul> <li>Sustainability as<br/>marketing tool</li> </ul>   |
| Distilleries                | 2             | Low       | <ul> <li>Sector in<br/>financial<br/>difficulties</li> <li>Energy<br/>abundant</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Increase of<br/>energy cost</li> <li>2nd Generation<br/>Ethanol</li> <li>Regulations on<br/>fertirrigation</li> </ul> |
| Pulp and<br>Paper           | 3             | Medium    | Water abundant     and cheap  | Close water loop   |
| Metal and<br>Mining         | 0             | Low       | <ul> <li>Not familiar with<br/>biotechnology</li> </ul>                                   | <ul><li>Metal recovery</li><li>Zero gypsum<br/>generation</li></ul>  |
| Municipalities              | 9             | Very High | <ul> <li>Public tender<br/>process</li> <li>No worries<br/>about OPEX</li> </ul>          | <ul> <li>Concessions and<br/>PPPs</li> </ul>   |



PAQUES

### Thank you! Obrigado! Bedankt!

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