

Surrey University Wins IChemE 2011 Top Water Award

The desalination and water purification work developed by Professor Adel Sharif and his Team at the University of Surrey's Centre for Osmosis Research and Applications (CORA) has been awarded the top prize in the Water Management and Supply category at this year's IChemE awards. CORA invented desalination technology won the award in the category which recognises the best project or process to demonstrate innovation in water use, clean-up and re-use, with a particular emphasis on reducing environmental impact while preserving commercial viability. Professor Adel Sharif was presented with the award at the ceremony in Birmingham on 3rd November 2011.



The Manipulated (Forward) Osmosis process which was invented by Prof. Sharif and Mr Al-Mayahi in 2003 has been developed from concept to large scale application and brought to the market in collaboration with Modern Water plc. Currently Modern Water has four plants using the MO desalination technology; one in Gibraltar and three plants in Oman. The MO technology which combines Forward Osmosis with Reverse Osmosis has recently completed more than a year of operation in a commercial plant in Al-Khuluf, south of Muscat in Oman, with performance exceedingly expectations of significant energy saving, high water quality as well as minimal chemical usage and, hence lower environmental impacts.

Additionally, recently the MO desalination technology has scored 8.9 at the Desalination Technologies 'Coefficient of Desalination Reality' scores in an independent study, by the Global Water Intelligence, and published in the Water Desalination Report (WDR, 44, Nov. 2010). The score is the highest of all new technologies in the sector.

Professor Sharif was also awarded the British Royal Society Brian Mercer award for innovation in Science and Technology and the first pan-European Academic Enterprise (ACES) Award as well as the AIM sustainability award which was awarded to Modern Water.

CORA boasts a rapidly expanding portfolio of research activities in the area of desalination and renewable power generation for water treatment applications, and has, as its long-term mission, to become a centre of excellence worldwide in desalination and water treatment technologies.

www.surrey.ac.uk/cce/research/water_chemical/cora/