

SQUEAKY CLEAN



Adam Lane talks with Contax Partners' Filippo Fantechi and Tony Mitchell about the firm's new GCC water venture

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Back in August, Contax Partners' Business Investment division announced that it had added Aman Water to its investment portfolio, granting the firm exclusive rights to the ClO2IX water disinfection technology across the Middle East.

Speaking on the deal, Filippo Fantechi, Contax Partners CEO, believes that the deal was an obvious extension of the firm's existing assets.

“Contax Partners' Business Investment division has established a proven track record of empowering its clients to achieve successful partnerships creation in the Middle East and Africa. We are committed to actively identifying new and innovative technologies worldwide and enable their successful launch in the region, working closely with the patent rights owners as they grow into profitable ventures.

“Aman Water, with its unique and patented process that has a successful proven record to disinfect water safely in the US and the UK, is a natural fit in our business investment strategy,” he says.

TECHNOLOGY

Tony Mitchell, Aman Water general manager, explains the key benefits of the technology

“The ClO2IX technology utilises patent protected ion exchange and catalytic know-how to produce a 700ppm solution of “Ultra-Pure” chlorine dioxide. It is the only chlorine dioxide technology in the world that produces a pure chlorine dioxide solution - free of byproducts such as chlorine and ozone.



“ClO2IX is used extensively in the USA, and the UK & Ireland, where it is the preferred technology of the departments of health for the treatment of water at healthcare facilities to prevent water borne disease (WBD).”

Preventing WBDs acquired in hospitals is a major financial concern, with 50% of the USA's \$45 billion yearly bill for hospital acquired infections (HAI) being due to disease-infected water.

“Although it is difficult to get figures for HAI and WBD in GCC countries it is generally accepted that the per capita figures are probably worse than for the USA,” Mitchell explains.

The firm has calculated that the economic cost of HAIs in Saudi Arabia is \$3.5 billion, whilst in the UAE it is \$0.66 billion. Half of this high cost, Mitchell says, is water borne infections that are almost entirely preventable.

“The use of ClO2IX to treat water in hospitals and healthcare facilities would dramatically reduce the number of WB HAIs which would, in return, provide a massive financial benefit,” he adds.

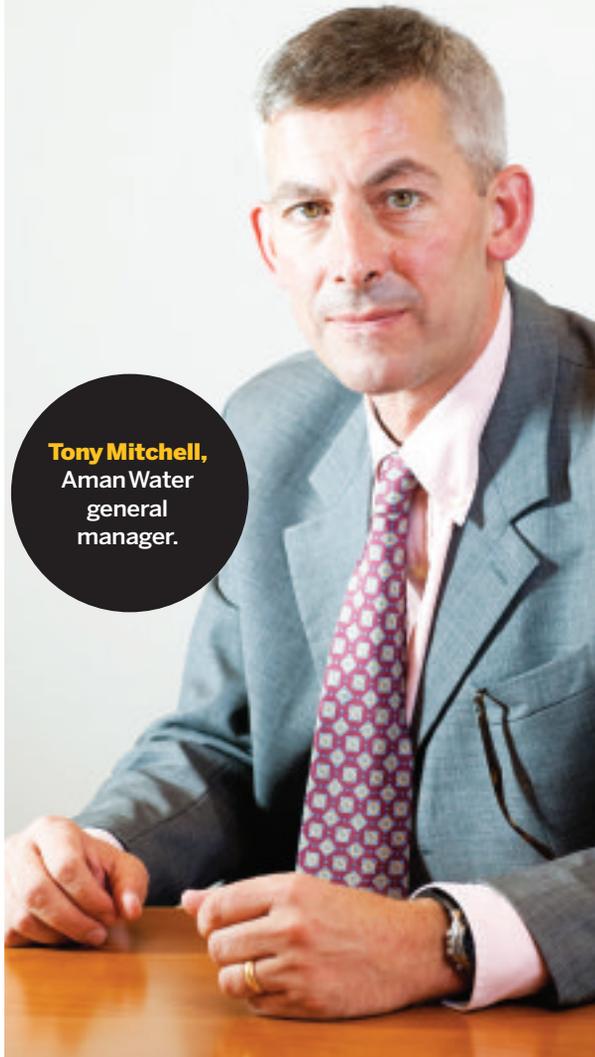
Mitchell also suggests that the technology has some specific advantages for the conditions in the region.

“In the GCC region, water providers have a huge problem with Bromate in the product. This is formed when Bromide, introduced during the remineralisation of product water, is oxidised to Bromate through the use of chlorine or ozone which is used to sanitise the product water. Bromate is also frequently introduced to the water by the use of liquid chlorine (hypochlorite) or electrolytically produced chlorine.

“Further, as all other chlorine dioxide technologies produce chlorine and/or ozone as byproducts, they will always produce



Filippo Fantechi,
CEO of Contax Partners.



Tony Mitchell,
Aman Water
general
manager.

THE PROCESS

- A small flow of water is taken into the unit and proportionally dosed with Sodium chlorite (NaClO₂).
- This solution of sodium chlorite is passed over an ion exchange resin where, due to the unique patented process, 100% conversion to Chlorous Acid (HClO₂) is achieved.
- Chlorous Acid is a weak, hazard free acid which naturally decomposes to Chlorine Dioxide (ClO₂), but this is a slow decomposition.
- As we need fresh chlorine dioxide on demand, the chlorous acid is passed over a Platinum (Pt) based catalyst where it is instantaneously converted to chlorine dioxide.

Bromate where bromide is present. ClO₂IX is the only technology that completely eliminates the production of bromate - as demonstrated at a bottled water facility in KSA where bromate has been completely removed from the product through the use of ClO₂IX," he says.

Aman Water has seen a surging interest in applying the ClO₂IX systems around the region, with some particular interest coming from power and water operators across the GCC.

"The interest has been huge in the power, water, medical, food and hospitality sectors, and we have already installed ClO₂IX systems at bottled water production facilities and hospitals in the region. We are in discussions with several of the larger IWPPs and expect to commence trials for various applications over the coming months.

"The technology has been applied for RO membrane treatment in power applications in the UK and in major industrial utilities in the USA. These applications have been hugely successful and resulted in enormous benefit from the end user in terms of increased production, increased membrane life, higher product quality and reduced downtime," he concludes.





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