



Resource Container, **VTT** Concept for nutrients recovery

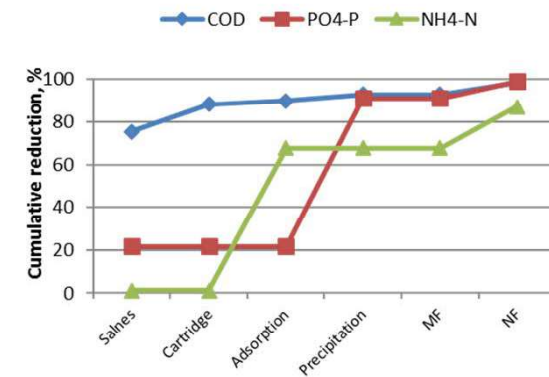
Jätevesien ravinteet kiertoon -webinar
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Hanna Kyllönen, Juha Heikkinen, Eliisa
Järvelä and Antti Grönroos

21.10.2020 VTT – beyond the obvious

Resource container –project 1

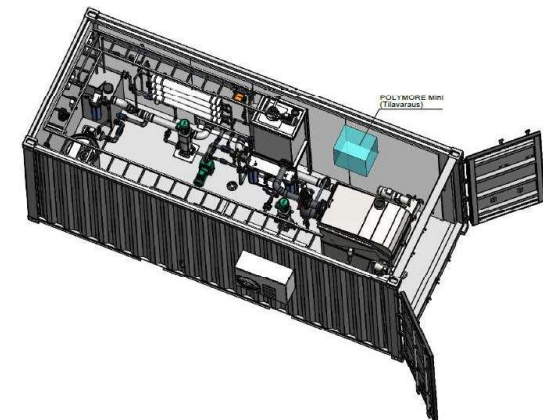
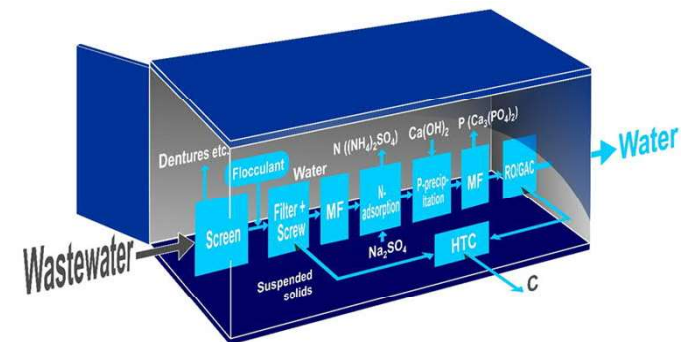
- Target: New solutions for wastewater treatment and nutrient recovery, and for better usability of the recycled products
- Actions: Concept development, pre-piloting at Parainen WWTP, and the first TEA calculations
- Financing: Raki 2, YM and VTT
- Running time: Dec 1st , 2016 – Dec 31st 2017
- Cooperation: Sofi Filtration, Aquaminerals, OWACO, Kemira, Dewaco, Watman, BSAG, Parainen, Pöyry, Turku AMK
- Result: 99% reduction/recovery for suspended solids, COD, phosphorous, and 87% for nitrogen



Resource container –project 2

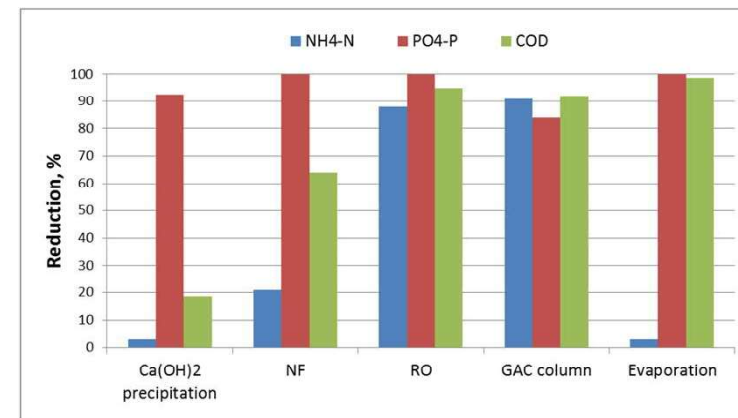
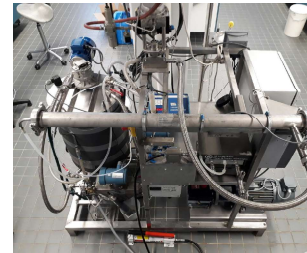
- Target: Plug-and-play resource container to be implemented in various scales locally or as seasonal solutions
- Actions: Two pilots of water purification and products recovery from wastewater using resource container with physico-chemical units applicable for varying wastewater loads and temperatures
 - Chipsters Food and PSSry
- Financing: Business Finland, VTT, companies
- Running time: Apr 2nd, 2018 – Mar 31st, 2020
- Cooperation: Watman, Sarlin, Aquaminerals, Chipsters Food, Pidä Saaristo Siistinä ry, Nordkalk, Bluet, Ecomation

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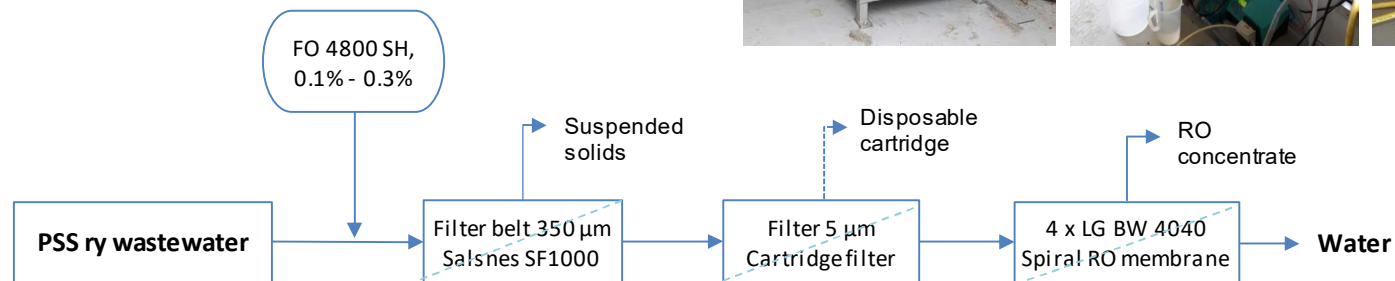
Nutrients recovery technologies studied in Resource container -projects

- Phosphorous
 - Precipitation using calcium products
 - Nanofiltration, reverse osmosis
 - Evaporation
 - Adsorption using adsorbent and GAC
- Nitrogen with and without pH adjustment
 - Evaporation, stripping
 - Nanofiltration, reverse osmosis
 - Membrane contactor
 - Adsorption using adsorbent and GAC



Resource Container = Mobile pilot equipment

- Belt, e.g. 350 μm , in Salsnes SF1000 filter
- Cartridge filter SPE-5-9 $\frac{3}{4}$ BB, e.g. with 5 μm pore size (nominal rating)
- RO membrane elements, e.g. LG BW 4040 ES

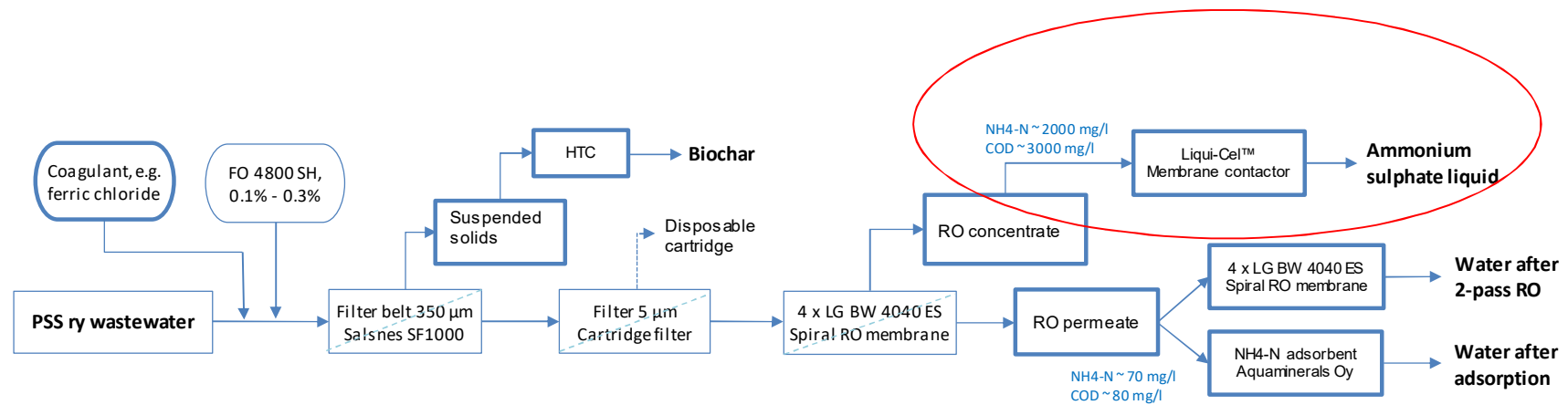


Suspended solids removal

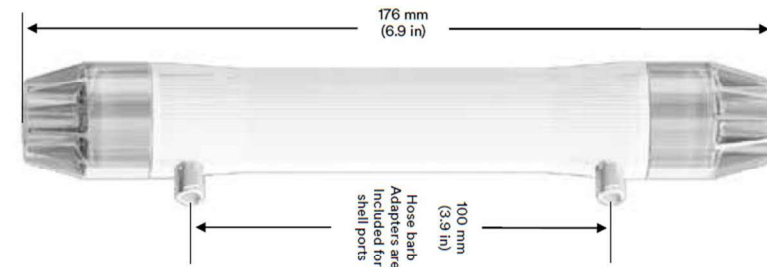
- Septic tank wastewater
 - Dry solids content ~ 8 g/l (8 kg/m³)
- Flocculant SNF Floerger FO 4800 SH
 - Dose increased until successful floc formation
 - Optimal dosage about 90 l/m³ of 0.1% polymer, i.e. ~ 11 kg/t_{DS}
- Belt 350 μ m performed well if flocculation was successful
- Cartridge filters functioned depending on success at belt



Recovery of nitrogen by membrane contactor



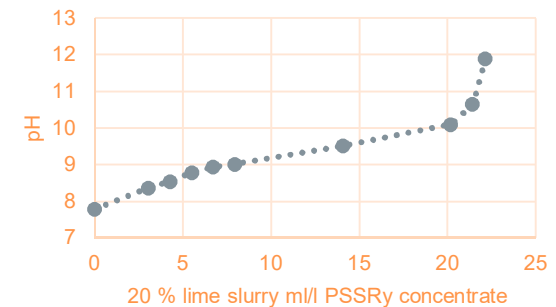
- 90 l feed solution: BWRO concentrate
- 9 kg adsorption solution 5.5 w-% H₂SO₄
- Membrane contactor (MC): 3M™ Liqui-Cel™ MM-1x5.5 Series
 - X50 fiber, 0.5 l/min flow rate (30 l/h)



Pre-treatment to MC

- pH was increased to improve ammonia gas permeation through the membrane
- Increase of pH precipitated phosphate from the feed to be recovered
- Precipitation of phosphate was carried out using 20% lime-water slurry
 - 5 l lime slurry per 100 l concentrate
 - pH increased > 12
- Some ammonia vaporized during phosphate precipitation since pH was too high
- Feed to MC was filtered using cartridge MF

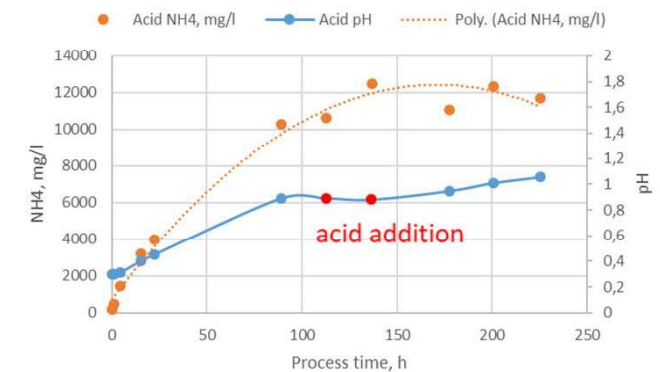
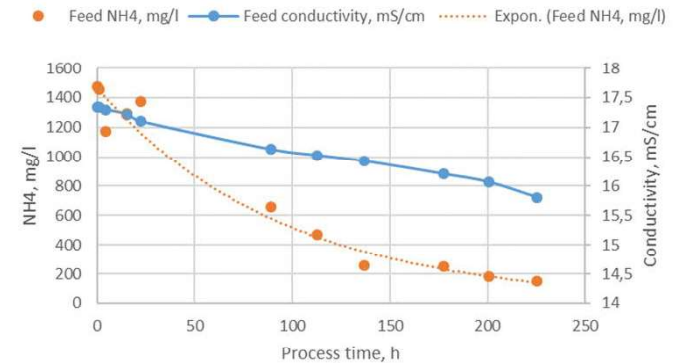
| | pH/ temperature | Suspend solids | NH ₄ ⁺ | PO ₄ ⁻³ |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Concentrate | 7.7 / 15°C | 0.2 g/l | 2420 mg/l | 6.41 mg/l |
| After lime addition | 12.3/ 16.5C | 1.6 g/l | | |
| After 2 hours settling | 12.2 /16.8C | 0.3 g/l | 1692 mg/l | |
| 1 µm cartridge filtrate (feed to MC) | 12.4 | 0.1 g/l | 1690 mg/l | 0.04 mg/l |



MC pilot



- 82 % of ammonia was removed from feed to acid
- When NH₄ content of feed was < 500 mg/l, removal of ammonia was slow
- pH of acid increased and conductivity of feed decreased
 - Ammonia neutralized acid: $2\text{NH}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \rightarrow (\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$
 - Removing ammonia from feed decreased its ion content
- Acid weight increase was minor (1-3,5 g/h)
 - No significant water transportation
 - Ammonia content increased the weight mostly
- Minor fouling was seen



Conclusions

1. PSS ry wastewater
2. Belt filtrate
3. Cartridge filtrate
4. RO concentrate
5. RO permeate



- Concept worked well for nitrogen and phosphorous recovery as well as pure water production
 - Suspended solids removal was important step for successful nutrients recovery
 - Phosphate precipitated well and could be recovered when pH was increased for ammonia recovery
 - 12 g/l ammonia solution, 44 g/l $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, could be obtained
 - 82 % of ammonia could be absorbed from feed to acid by membrane contactor



Contacts: hanna.kyllonen@vtt.fi tai antti.gronroos@vtt.fi

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the obvious

Hanna Kyllönen
Hanna.kyllonen@vtt.fi
+358 40 5284521

@VTTFinland

www.vtt.fi

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