biologically treated to the required standard, even though its composition can fluctuate widely.

The pilot plants are easy to install and they do tend to work well, allowing for lots of variations and tweaking. That helps develop the full-scale design, so we can come up with a proposal and a fixed price.

Every onsite treatment facility should be piloted first. Yes, pilots are expensive but they will save you money in the long run. I would not do an industrial application without having a trial.

Do your research

Many projects have been hampered by poor quality kit. You get what you pay for. I've seen dewatering systems stop working after a month and some equipment mothballed when the operational complexities or ongoing costs are realised.

A lot of it comes down to manufacturing, or people over-selling the technology into inappropriate applications, so think carefully before going ahead with purchasing. Get hard facts and data upfront and get advice and recommendations. Look for tried and tested equipment, with good customer reviews. Don't be tempted to buy off-the-shelf as all sites differ and one piece of equipment does not fit all.

Speak to people who've operated it. When it comes to wastewater treatment, you do not want to be the first company to try a brand new piece of kit. You are going to be spending a lot of money, anything from £5,000 to £150,000 or even a million, so you have to be careful and really do your homework.

Handle with care

Maintenance is of course essential, once the unit is up and running, but problems can occur due to a lack of operating knowledge. People do not always read the operating and maintenance manuals and they do not send staff on the training sessions we set up. Perhaps they do not view training as important, but it really is. Operators need that knowledge. Some of these pieces of kit are really specialist.

Unrealistic expectations of what an onsite unit can handle can also lead to failures. There are incorrect assumptions of what a piece of kit will do, or what it can handle. The only thing that should go into wastewater treatment sites is wastewater, nothing else. No hair nets, tin cans, plastic cable ties or packaging materials.

We find all sorts of things wrapped round pumps – it could be that people lift up the gridding to dispose of things quickly. Education and ongoing training would really help prevent equipment and processes breaking down."

Look to the future

Your new onsite treatment facility might meet required environmental and trade effluent standards now but will it in the future? Building in future-proofing, especially legislative, is a difficult thing to do as you can't guess the future. You can assume that as pressure increases on the sewer network, the water company will increase charges, set stricter discharge standards or possibly stop industry going to its sewer. Ask the question of your supplier – what is the next step in treatment? At some point in the future could I reuse this valuable resource?

ADVERTORIAL

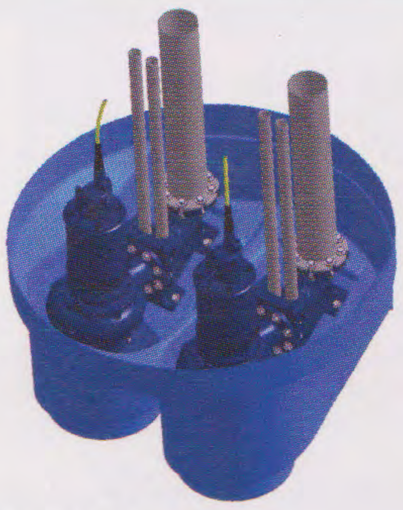
Keeping the pump chamber clean – *the easy way!*

Self-Cleaning Systems:

As one of the UK's leading wastewater and sewage pumping experts, Aldermaston based Pump Technology Ltd. works with pump manufactures such as Xylem and Hidrostal to supply cutting-edge pump station technology like the Flygt Concertor and Hidrostal Preroclean. These systems are particularly efficient in keeping pumping chambers clean from fats and floating debris. They also save energy and improve reliability in often troublesome applications such as shopping centres, transport hubs, sports stadiums, public buildings and similar locations.

The Flygt Concertor:

The Concertor utilises the Flygt N impeller design, a variable speed submersible pump and an intelligent controller. The pump runs efficiently, discharge performance matching inlet flow, then every set number of cycles it flushes the discharge pipe clean. With variable start levels and snore setting on the flush cycle, floating debris is evacuated from the chamber, the pump station remaining cleaner and more reliable for longer.



The Hidrostal Preroclean:

The Preroclean utilises the Hidrostal screw impeller and a sculptured basin with offset weir plate that creates a fluid swirl in the chamber that is emptied every time. The Hidrostal like the Concertor can be provided as a packaged pumping station, utilising the Pump Technology PumpMatic chamber or retrofitted to an existing station, such as flat bottom, concrete chambers, which are renowned for build-up of debris.

Years of Experience:

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