SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Flowtronex adds RO, oxygenation to IWM offering

By ANDREW OVERBECK

DALLAS — Flowtronex PSI Inc. has added reverse osmosis and oxygenation systems to its growing stable of Integrated Water Management Solutions. In addition to its line of pump stations, the company sells filtration, pH control, irrigation and filtration products.

The new reverse osmosis (RO) product has been developed in conjunction with Water Equipment Technologies, a Florida company that also under the ITT umbrella. The RO system is made up of a semi-permeable membrane that blocks the transport of salts or other solutes.

RO systems were developed for large-scale projects that needed to turn salt water into irrigation-quality water, but they have typically been too expensive for smaller applications. However, as cost has come down, golf courses have made use of the technology. Systems are in place at multiple courses in Florida that have turned both high-chloride and brackish water into a suitable irrigation supply. The systems are capable of producing 400,000 to 1,000,000 gallons per day (gpd). They are now getting the RO units down cost-wise where it is not only an effective means of removing sodium from water but it can be used in brackish water, poor well water or even effluent water depending on what part of the country you are in," said Flowtronex irrigation national sales manager Alan Olson. "In the past they were used when it was impossible to grow grass without it, now they are being used where you are valuing the improvement in grass quality that you get from higher quality water."

While cost for an RO system depends on the size, capital costs for brackish water RO units range from $0.60 to $0.90 per gpd of capacity for equipment, installation and commissioning costs. Operating costs range from $0.70 to $0.85 per 1,000 gallons of product water based on a power cost of 5.08/kwh and membrane life of five years.

"Since most municipal supplies range from $1.50 to $3.30 per thousand gallons these plants are a very competitive alternative to purchasing water," said Water Equipment Technologies general manager Jorge Menningmann. "They also have an advantage over reclaimed wastewater by providing a con..."
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*Source: December 2002 BPA Statement