

Facilities Managers could save £thousands if new UK company has its way

Facility managers could reap the benefits of new biotechnology combined with proactive management systems that Environmental Biotech, the successful US-based wastewater cleansing company, are bringing to the UK to help prevent drain line and main sewer blockages caused by fats, oils and grease. Any facility with food preparation or processing on site has the potential to decrease their operational problems and increase profitability.

Central to this new service is the use of biotechnology, which utilises billions of tiny workers that slave away for little pay...they literally work for food only! This workforce of billions is actually micro-organisms (vegetative bacteria) that feed on the problematic fat, sugar, and starch wastes that are found clinging in drain lines and sewer pipes. The process, known as bioremediation, is Nature harnessed and at work.

Aziz Tejpar, Director of Environmental Biotech UK, explains the company's philosophy.

"In the commercial sector, we assume the management of our clients' drainage system so they can focus on what they do best...run their businesses profitably. In the food service industry for example, fat and sugar clogged drains have been a vexing issue for centuries; the Romans had some of the first plumbers in the world.

"Our proactive approach is to solve our clients' problems before they occur. It is much better to have no drain backup at all, rather than deal with it after it has blocked, overflowed and caused major inconvenience. Utilising technol-

ogy advancements, ranging from CCTV (video imaging) to radio detection and bioremediation, our highly trained technicians diagnose the complete drainage system dynamics and determine what it will require to restore and maintain the system in tip-top functionality.

"A major tool in the long term maintenance programme is the installation of a system that injects live vegetative bacteria into the pipe or drain network twelve times each day. The reservoirs containing these short-lived bacteria are replaced every fourteen days.

Aziz Tejpar continues, "The environmentally friendly process of bioremediation, eventually digest the hydrocarbon-based compounds reducing them to carbon dioxide and water. This ensures that the drain lines stay clear and flowing, helping to keep a facility up and running and on budget, without unexpected emergencies and unbudgeted emergency calls."

Founded in 1990 by Bill Hadley and with headquarters in Sarasota, Florida, Environmental Biotech is now a multinational company serving many of the largest companies in the world. The company's knowledge-based business philosophy has fostered the development of an international educational programme. "The Grease (Fat) Summit", is a comprehensive course on sewer fat and one of the courses that is taught internationally to personnel from governments, wastewater authorities, facility management companies, food processors, food retailers and environmentalists. The education of commercial clients in Best Management Practices (BMPs) is an integral element in any drainage system management programme.

As a member of the UK Faraday Partnership in food processing technology, Hadley will be conducting industry specific wastewater workshops in the UK, early in

2003 at Reading University and other universities throughout the country. These workshops will focus on process wastewater from many industry sectors, and its role in process, operational, and discharge compliance issues. The workshops will also include pre-treatment methodology and BMP-based process enhancements. The aim is to improve both operational capabilities and bottom line profits. Summing up the current situation, Aziz Tejpar says, "The food service industry as a group is the largest contributor to fat related sewer blockages. Fugitive discharges of fats and oils that make it past the food facilities' drains collect in manholes and sewer lines causing blockages and sewage spills, resulting in high clean up costs. Besides the costs involved, the potential for environmental harm and health risks from untreated sewage is an ever-growing incentive to minimise sewer fat impact.

"With the launch of Environmental Biotech in the UK, we can now bring our solutions-based drainage technology to many segments of UK industry, including restaurants, institutional food service (schools, hospitals, prisons, military bases, factory cafeterias, etc), and food processors/manufacturers. Wastewater

authorities can also enhance their profitability and client service by employing Environmental Biotech systems to bioremediate the fat collected in the sewer lines and sewage plants.

"Our biggest challenge is to think globally and execute locally. Because our intense level of service is provided on a local level, it takes a team of well-trained technicians to execute the required regimen. From converting the bacteria, that has been air couriered in a frozen state, into a viable system to diagnosing and restoring a challenged drainage system. Our state of the art mobile service units are equipped with every conceivable piece of equipment and technology that might be needed to resolve a client's drain issue. The ability to solve our clients' problems using the latest technology is not only of great benefit to them, but the accomplishment of a "job well done" is gratifying to us as well."

