

Scidev plan to clean up 'forever chemical'

SCIDEV is leading the charge to develop a cost-effective treatment for per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances in Australia, which are proving a concern to mining among numerous industries.



Scidev CEO Sean Halpin

Processing > Chemicals- reagents

Sometimes referred to as 'forever chemicals', PFAS includes more than 4700 highly persistent man-made chemicals that can accumulate in humans and animals.

Comments

The substances do not degrade naturally.

Karma Barndon

PFAS' versatility for numerous industrial applications led to it being used widely for everyday items such as food packaging, clothing and textiles, cosmetics and electronics, despite recent research linking the chemicals to adverse health effects.

PFAS was also historically used in firefighting foams.

In Australia efforts have focused on dealing with the contamination created by historical use at air force bases and places where firefighting training was conducted.

There is a growing global push to phase out PFAS use.



In Australia, Scidev has treated more than 3.5 billion litres of PFAS-contaminated water at 30 sites.

Scidev chief executive officer Seán Halpin told *Australia's Mining Monthly* that Australia was ahead of the curve globally when it came to PFAS treatment.

"Scidev continues to lead Australia's PFAS water treatment sector," he said.

"We continue to see strong engagement for our PFAS solutions in Australia and overseas, as increasing global regulation drives the need for PFAS-contaminated sites to be appropriately remediated and managed."

Halpin said with a growing portfolio of major contracts and strong demand across all sectors, Scidev was well-positioned to continue to grow its operational and financial footprint across 2024.

The company has generated \$20 million in revenue from PFAS treatment projects in the past two years.

From six PFAS treatment projects on the go in the December quarter, Scidev raked in \$2.5 million.

Halpin said the company continued to innovate and deliver a range of chemistry solutions and water technologies to clients that improved operational efficiency and reduced their water footprint.

Scidev's PFAS plan

The company has developed **ion exchange technology** that removes both short and long-chain PFAS compounds.

The ion exchange process uses resin beads to exchange ions with dissolved contaminants in water.

These resin beads selectively bind to PFAS molecules and remove them from the water stream.

Its Fluorofix technology can treat large volumes of highly contaminated water to reduce PFAS below the limit of reporting and generate waste volumes less than 0.001%.

Halpin said Fluorofix was a multibarrier, sustainable and economical solution for the treatment of long-chain and short-chain PFAS molecules.

Another technology Regenix is used with Fluorofix to extend the life of the system's ion exchange resin that removes and holds PFAS.

That minimises byproduct waste generation and reduces annual operational costs up to 75% in some applications.



SciDev has a patent application pending for Regenix technology.

Halpin said every PFAS treatment project was unique and presented its own set of challenges and variables.

"These variables include the molecular make-up of the total PFAS concentration, the presence of co-contaminants, the receiving environment, applicable regulatory compliance, the current waste disposal market, the client's budget and site and time constraints," he said.

Record quarterly revenue recorded

Halpin said the company had an encouraging December quarter, posting record quarterly revenue of \$28.5 million and cash receipts of \$25.9 million.

"Our growing revenue profile is a reflection of the increasing diversity of our client base," he said.

"Scidev continues to lead Australia's PFAS water treatment sector and we continue to see strong engagement for our PFAS solutions in Australia and overseas, as increasing global regulation drives the need for PFAS-contaminated sites to be appropriately remediated and managed."

Halpin said the growing profitability of the business through the first half of 2023-24 reflected the business' leverage.

"With a strong pipeline, we anticipate continuing to deliver improved financial performance in coming periods," he said.

During the quarter Scidev's water technology division continued expanding in Australia.

It also experienced strong business development activities in North America and Europe, thanks to increasing demand for PFAS treatment solutions globally.

Halpin said that was being driven by impending regulation in both regions.





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