No Clogging, Smooth Solutions,

目詰まりしない膜分離、スムースな分離精製・水処理



Development of the New Model of Sewage Treatment Technology at the Test Bed in Water Plaza, Kitakyushu

Dr. Seiichi Manabe, Sepa-Sigma. Inc. President 1 December 2012

Company's Profile



Name	Sepa-Sigma Inc. Sepa-Sigma			
Representative	Dr. Seiichi Manabe			
Establishment	3 August 2006			
Capital Fund	261.75 Million Japanese Yen			
Summary of Business	 Comprehensive solution provider of purification technology for membrane separation in water treatment, food, overall chemical engineering (R&D) Production and sales of virus removal membrane (filter) and test agent for integrity test of virus removal membrane * Number of patent applications: 53 			
Address	1–2–43 Katayama, Wakamatsu, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka 808–0106 Japan			
Telephone	093-791-6875 URL http://www.sepa-sigma.com			
April 2004	Established <i>Sigma Recycle Technology and Research Institute</i> . Started development of the pore diffusion flat membrane separation apparatus, as a theme of independent research development.			
August 2006	Established <i>Sepa-Sigma Inc</i> . and started the commercialization of technologies which has been developed in <i>Sigma Recycle Technology and Research Institute</i> .			
April 2008	Integrate Sigma Recycle Technology and Research Institute into Sepa- Sigma Inc. and has been grown as a R&D enterprise.			



Separation Membrane of Sepa-Sigma

1. Long fibered non-woven fabric / Press finish of long fibered nonwoven fabric

Average pore size: 500nm, 1 µm, 10µm, 20µm

2. Long fibered non-woven fabric / Coating of regenerated cellulose multi layered membrane

Average pore size: 20nm, 80nm, 100nm, 500nm

 Regenerated cellulose multi layered membrane / regenerated cellulose – Multi layered structure membrane- laminated SESE Average pore size: 10nm, 20nm



Outline of Development



Develop technology to produce final effluents in low cost and stable manner by using a flow fractionation cartridge with low cost membrane.



The Worlds' First Flow fractionation cartridge

<u>Issues</u>

- downsizing, simplification
- •odor
- reduction of cost
- Development of Technologies • no clogging for long periods • closed type with odor control • small dissolution energy • using low cost non-woven membrane

Flow Fractionation Effect



When liquid is made to flow through passages formed between the membranes (walls), the flow velocity distribution occurs. Particles flowing between different speed of flows, turns around itself and receive force toward the center of the flow (flow fractionation effect).



Non-woven membranes

Non-woven membranes

Patent Application No. 2011-93427



[Flow Fractionation]



When liquid is made to flow in water passage; theoretically, the flowing speed is faster at the center of the water passage, and flowing speed of membrane side becomes slower. As a result, relatively large sized particles flow at the center and smaller particles flow near the membrane.

By using this phenomenon, infectious agent such as virus are not able to come closer to membrane. Instead, membrane is able to absorb small protein substance effectively. Simultaneously, this separation method can avoid clogging of the pores of membrane.

The pore diffusion method our company uses is a new separation method which we have been studying the conditions of flow fractionation very well. We believe it can achieve the maximum results.



Basic Process (TOC, COD, BOD, T-N, Heavy Metallic Ion, S, F, B, T-P, SS)





Structure of Nucleation Agent





Work of Nucleation Agent



Development Target



Low cost micro diffusion type sewage treatment apparatus Nucleating process = Enlarge hazardous particles + Flow fractionation process = Separate large particles from water Flow fractionation Cartridge Water treatment apparatus Enlargement of particles by adding nucleation agent











Technical Target

	Current value (Average from measured value)	Raw sewage (Average)	Technical target value (standard of discharge water)
COD (mg/L)	<10	110	<10
BOD (mg/L)		200	<2
SS (mg/L)	<1	250	<1
T-N (mg/L)		40	10
T-P (mg/L)		6	0.5
As (mg/L)	0.021		<0.05
Separation Energy			0.1-0.5atm
Treatment speed(LMH)	226		>300LMH
Cost of apparatus 50㎡/day			Approx. 3million Japanese Yen
Frequency of membrane replacement			5 years

Flow fractionation laboratory test









Medium size experiment



Object:rinse water of waste plastic

Separation particle size >10µm

Pore size of Membrane $10\mu m$; filtration pressure 0.2atm

Flow velocity 2cm/s(strain rate 5/s)

Filtration speed: 15L/min. stable over 12 hours



Enlargement of particles By adding nucleation agent

Treated water



Research system





- City of Kitakyushu; Kitakyushu Foundation for the Advancement of Industry Science and Technology (FAIS)
- University of Kitakyushu, Kyushu Institute of Technology (Technical guidance)
- Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low Carbon Society (Support for commercialization)
- Mechanics and Electronics Research Institute, Fukuoka Industrial Technology Center (Technical guidance);
- Non-woven fabric manufacture (Company A): mass production

Demonstration Project Site

Test bed (site A), Water Plaza Kitakyushu



Water Plaza (Architectural rendering)





Test bed districts section map



Intake / outlet

Commercialization Plan



- 1. Product: Flow fractionation type water treatment apparatus (sewage / drainage treatment)
- 2. Concept: Micro membrane distributed type sewage treatment apparatus
 - Small scale (private) sewage treatment apparatus
- 3. Target market, target size Water utilization / treatment market Approx. 504 trillion Japanese Yen (2009) Expect to grow 878.3 trillion Japanese Yen (2015) which is 72.7% increase from 2008.
 3 years after the commercialization of the products, aim to achieve 0.1% share in water treatment market in the world (600 billion Japanese Yen)

Demonstration Project Sites

Farmland, islands, disaster stricken area, developing countries

- Micro membrane distributed type sewage treatment apparatus
- Small scale (private) sewage treatment apparatus
- 1. Independent treatment apparatus
- 2. Adopt the technology in the water recirculation system using oxidation ditch method.

Capable to use existing facilities (water passage and propeller) so that initial cost can be reduced.









Contribution to International Society



Utilization of water resources corresponding to the climate change

- Rapid development in developing countries and immediate installation of sewage treatment.
- Move to decentralized cities, use for disaster prevention measure

Adopt technology, especially for the arsenic issues in ground water.

Industrial effluent treatment, air pollution measurement

 Environmental technology can be adopted in manufacturing industries in Kitakyushu

 Plan speedy commercialization by cooperating with industry, academy and government, such as with Kitakyushu Oversea Water Business Association; and Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low Carbon Society