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Infrastructure

ADI Systems to work on Easter Island wastewater system

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Fredericton-based ADI Systems Inc. has landed a contract to treat wastewater at the Hanga Roa Hotel on Easter Island in the South Pacific. It is the company's second such project on the island, 2,000 miles west of Chile.

ADI is using its membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology, which it says produces high-quality treated wastewater that can be directly discharged into a local stream. Most of the equipment has been shipped, but not yet installed.

Environmental protection is considered paramount on Easter Island, one of the world's most isolated inhabited islands.

"It's a very pristine place," said president Graham Brown. "The islanders are very protective of their environment. Discharging dirty water would stand out like a sore thumb."

ADI Systems is a world leader in biological treatment technologies for industrial wastewater management. Most of its business is outside Canada.

Its MBR technology incorporates Japanese-manufactured filtration membranes.

"This particular technology creates very clean water as it is discharged," Graham said.

Graham, whose firm designs, supplies and installs industrial wastewater treatment systems worldwide, said ADI Systems typically partners with local firms on overseas projects.

"An important issue is how you divide up the work, so that the right party does the right thing and the entire project gets covered."

On Easter Island, ADI's Chilean partner is responsible for ensuring that the wastewater treatment plant is built in accordance with local standards. That firm also is overseeing construction.

The two firms collaborated previously on a wastewater treatment plant at the Hotel Explora.

"By working together, we can do something that neither one of us could do independently," Graham said.

Graham, an environmental engineer who has been at ADI Systems for 30 years, said equipment usually is shipped by container on overseas projects.

"We've been doing this export business for quite a few years now," he said. "We've pretty much sorted out how to ship stuff."

While ADI's clients include major industries, it also tackles select smaller projects, such as the Easter Island installation.

"Like most companies, we're in business to make money," Graham said. "But we are also in business to have

some fun.

“It’s fun for us to do something like this on a smaller scale.”

ADI Systems has installations in more than 30 countries. It uses a variety of technologies for wastewater treatment. It is part of the ADI Group Inc.



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