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Qponics Vice President – newly minted PhD in biogas engineering

Simon Tannock, Qponics' Vice President – Engineering and Technology, this week was informed by the University of Queensland that his thesis has met all the requirements for his PhD degree. Dr Tannock's research focused on the development of an environmentally sustainable wastewater and solid waste treatment system for office buildings and shopping complexes. The system he developed used anaerobic digestion to convert the carbon in the waste to methane biogas, which can be combusted to produce electricity and heat. The final part of the process used biological systems to remove the nutrients from the water as well as a special filter system to remove pathogens and make it safe for water recycling.

Simon's expertise in this field will be valuable to Qponics for ensuring that the water entering and exiting the algae photo-bioreactor system is optimised for the downstream processes. Dr Tannock's 12 years of experience with microalgae production systems, combined with his newly acquired skills and knowledge of biogas production, will also assist Qponics and its strategic partners to capitalize on opportunities to treat their waste to create alternative sources of energy and nutrients.

Methane combusted in air produces water and carbon dioxide, the latter of which can readily be captured and piped into Qponics' algal photo-bioreactors to be sequestered into the algae and boost the production of omega-3 fatty acids and proteins.

Qponics Limited is developing a unique aquaculture-algaeculture system for the production of algae and extraction of their EPA and DHA¹ omega-3 oils.

¹ EPA: eicosapentaenoic acid; DHA: docosahexaenoic acid

Graeme Barnett

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director

24 May 2013