



News release

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Slime control technology to benefit from a radical approach

Two eminent Australian research centres are joining their forces in a radical approach to biofilm control -. The Environmental Biotechnology CRC (EBCRC) and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Free Radical Chemistry and Biochemistry (Free Radical Centre) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will see them work together to improve technology that initiates biofilm formation and dispersal.

“The chemistry expertise of the Free Radical Centre will provide a solid stepping stone in the further development of EBCRC’s nitric oxide technology”, said Dr David Garman, EBCRC Executive Director.

‘We are very excited about working together with EBCRC to enhance the existing biofilm control technology, said Professor Carl Schiesser, Director of the Free Radical Centre and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne.

The two Centres will combine their strengths to more fully explore the effects of cell-signalling processes within biofilms. Nitric oxide is a free radical that has been proven to disperse established biofilms and prevent the formation of new ones. It plays a key role in many biological processes and may holds a key to the control of pathogens harbouring in bacterial biofilms.

The technology will be applicable across many industries from wastewater to the health sector. For example, the technology will reduce corrosion and fouling in pipe and membrane systems and has potential for use in both medical implant coatings and infection control in health care settings.

EBCRC develops advanced technologies based on biological systems to improve efficiency and reduce or utilise waste to benefit a wide range of industries and the environment as well as having applications in human and animal health.

The Free Radical Centre is a world leader in the chemistry of free radicals, with expertise that ranges from materials science through to biology. Its mission is to strengthen Australia’s formidable position in the field of Free Radical Chemistry and to provide the breakthrough science that will expand the frontiers of understanding of the chemistry of free radical processes and enable the development of advanced materials and technologies for building and transforming industry.

‘This agreement lays the foundations for cooperation that integrates the fundamental knowledge developed by the Free Radical Centre with the research interests of the EBCRC in a manner that will provide significant benefits to Australian industry and the environment; areas of strategic importance to Australia,’ says Prof Schiesser.

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