



ProSep

Expert Series

With Caleb Smathers, Senior Product Development Engineer



What is your role at ProSep? How long have you been with the company and what do you enjoy about your role and the company?

I am a Senior Product Development Engineer here at ProSep and my main role is to help with our water treatment technologies, taking them from the development stage to the sales stage and then also supporting in the aftermarket.

The main technology I am working with is the OSORB media systems. I have been with ProSep for ten years and the thing I like the most is the culture, specifically the innovation culture and the drive to always make things better.

What opportunities are you seeing for water treatment in the energy industry currently? How do you think OSORB can help? What is special about OSORB?

Yes, I think the major trend we're seeing in the oil and gas industry is the drive for ESG, environmental, social and governance. Specifically, when it comes to water treatment, the environmental side, what technologies are out there that can be adopted to help reduce the environmental impact of the activities within oil and gas space.

Specifically, OSORB can help with reducing the greenhouse gas emissions related to operations and reducing the amount of harmful chemicals that are discharged into the sea by removing them before they're being discharged into the environment.

So, what we see special about OSORB and why it works so well in that space is the fact that it is a superior best in class technology to remove these harmful contaminants and the fact that we can regenerate it, which further reduces the environmental impact of the operations related to water treatment.

Name some of the clients you've managed to work with on OSORB historically? What is their profile and geographic base? How do they perceive your product?

Yes, we work with clients all over the globe and every different region, both onshore and offshore. Specifically, we just won a project with Woodside, Scarborough and that's going to be in Australia and we're removing BTEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl-benzene, and Xylene) from a water stream before it's allowed to enter the ocean.

Are you seeing any major attitude shifts in the energy industry over the past 2-3 years in how they view water treatment? What role should water treatment play going forward?

Yes, we do see an increase and heightened focus in the removal of dissolved hydrocarbons from water.

Talking about benzene, toluene, ethyl-benzene and xylene, BTEX components, there are a lot more regions that are starting to put these into focus and operators that are putting them into focus on their own.

So, the trend is to reduce the discharge of these contaminants into the environment, whether it's onshore or offshore.

What role should water treatment play going forward for operators and you know for the energy industry.

I think it needs to continue to play an expanding role in oil and gas operations and oil and gas activities.

Water is one of those scarce resources that we have in this planet, there's a limited supply of it, so we need to continue to drive the innovation of technologies like OSORB, but also ones that are further up and downstream in the value chain to continue to improve upon the efficiency of oil and gas operations, reducing the amount of energy that's needed, reducing the amount of contaminants or greenhouse gas emissions that are related with activities but also increasing the amount of water that's available from the oil and gas or energy activities that are completed globally.

Do you foresee using OSORB in other types of water treatment?

Yes, I see and have long thought that OSORB is a platform technology. What I see is the most exciting and what we are working on now is actually taking our OMS product our OSORB product into the lithium mining space and we're finding ways to actually assist in the recovery of lithium, which, and in today's global environment is a very important resource both nationally and internationally. So even if we're able to help out a little bit it's going to be a huge game changer for us at ProSep and also for the economy and the lithium supply chain.

Thank you to Caleb for his insight into ProSep's OSORB technology and the water treatment market.

Keep up-to-date with the rest of the series and hear more from our experts at www.prosep.com