
Quote:

"We are now at a stage in our innovation process, where we are focusing on demonstrating the proof of concept for our circular system that collects & converts plastic from rivers and waters into energy. A successful pilot will be the key to showcase and scale up the solution in India and beyond. Ensuring clean waterways is an important global challenge and creation of energy & jobs locally, a significant added benefit".

- Neha Mehta, Head of DESMI EnviRo-Clean

The seas of the world are choking on plastic. A staggering eight million metric tons wind up in oceans every year. Rivers carry trash over long distances and connect land surfaces with the oceans, making them a critical factor in combatting sea pollution.

A recent study estimates that about 75-80% of the total plastic debris entering the oceans from across the world come from the 20 most polluting rivers, a majority of which are in Asia. China's Yangtze River tops that list, India meanwhile comes in distant second, with the Ganges River, with another Chinese river, Xi, coming in third. However, it must also be noted that more than 25 percent of leakage originates outside Asia, so the struggle to reduce plastic-waste leakage into the ocean remains a global effort.

DESMI stepped forward to combat this problem in 2016 with its DESMI EnviRo-Clean segment that deals with debris collection with a circular economy approach. This segment is part of DESMI Ro-Clean A/S, which is world's leader in Oil Spill Response around the globe with more than 40 years of experience.

While much focus has been put on cleaning up the oceans, DESMI's solutions aims at addressing the problem, quite literally, further upstream. With the solution, DESMI wants to help stem the tide and contribute to getting in place better waste collection and management practices around the rivers, their tributaries & canals around the world.

The segment offers two possibilities, firstly, waterway clean-up service and secondly clean-up service with waste processing. Waste processing consists of drying the collected waste, sorting, shredding and in the end final conversion of waste into a useable energy.

In the autumn of 2018, DESMI will run a pilot project in India together with the Indian Government, demonstrating proof of concept (POC) for the solution. This POC will consist of collection of waste until its conversion into a useful source of energy. This test will be able to validate each step in the process & help streamline the process to provide the maximum benefit to the local environment.

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