

IFAT CHINA 2008: Tracking Down Pollutants

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Sources of pollutants can only be discovered and processes made more environmentally compatible using a reliable data. There is an enormous need for setting up corresponding measurement stations in China. The environment trade fair IFAT CHINA in Shanghai from 23 to 25 September 2008 provides international manufacturers with the chance to become familiar with the (in part) difficult framework conditions of this market segment and establish important direct contacts.

Approximately 750,000 people die prematurely from air pollution in the large cities and the poor water quality in rural areas in China annually. The Financial Times reported this at the beginning of July with reference to investigations made by the World Bank.

Those in Beijing have realized in the meantime that an improvement of poor environmental conditions is closely linked to improved data and more precise monitoring. The current five-year plan stipulates setting up a network of measurement stations in all provinces all over the country. Regions with a high degree of pollution will be integrated into the system first. One of these is Zhejiang Province on the east coast south of Shanghai. Expanding the measurement stations was already started there in 2005. With currently about 1,000 measurement stations in the sewage sector and around 200 in the area of measuring emissions, Zhejiang is currently the province with the densest measurement network. "New stations are being set up here daily," Claus Schmidt reported, a consultant at the Environmental Science Research & Design Institute of Zhejiang. "And at least 300 additional measurement spots will be added in the coming year." Mr. Schmidt is convinced that the other provinces will make similar investments in the next two to three years following the example of Zhejiang.

In the sewage sector, the measurement systems mainly record the parameters TOC (total carbon content), COD (chemical oxygen requirement that is needed for oxidizing organic and inorganic water contents), pH value and flow. In addition, the amounts of ammonium (NH₄-N), phosphorous (TP) and nitrogen (TN) are determined when necessary.

The standard system measurement module for emission measurements checks for sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitric oxide (NO_x), oxygen (O₂), dust, temperature and pressure. The values for hydrogen chloride (HCl) and hydrogen fluoride (HF) can also be recorded as supplementary parameters.

Because there are many measurement equipment suppliers for the various areas, the environmental protection agencies in the Chinese provinces have created a list, on which the equipment is listed that may be used.

According to observations of Mr. Schmidt, the measurement points are usually installed directly adjacent to factories. The measured data are evaluated electronically and transmitted to the measurement offices. The companies have to pay for setting up the measurement stations themselves, but receive a government subsidy. But these subsidies are only granted if the equipment is on the list of the environmental protection agency. "Unfortunately, the list has nothing to do with performance," Mr. Schmidt complained. "Products and makes are currently included very arbitrarily. As a result, there are monopolies for one product or another in many areas. If you aren't on the list, you don't have much of a chance to participate in this very big market."

Mr. Schmidt believes that international companies, which offer measurement technology in the cited areas, have the best chance of participating in the Chinese market over the next one to two years. This is so especially in cases when it is a question of equipment that is "off the shelf". Companies are in demand that can provide know-how and instruments. Claus Schmidt: "Unsuitable standard equipment will have to be replaced by special equipment in China in the near future. The reason is that many difficult to analyze chemicals are used in industrial production, so that waste water composition can usually not be determined using standard solutions."

Additional information is available at www.ifat-china.com

About IFAT CHINA

IFAT CHINA is the comprehensive trade fair for practical solutions in the areas of water supply, sewage treatment, waste disposal, recycling, air pollution control, environmental technology and recyclable energy sources in Asia. The trade fair supplies the business and networking platform for Chinese and international industry representatives and is supported by a solidly based technical and scientific conference program. IFAT CHINA 2006 had 284 exhibitors from 25 countries and

approx. 10,000 visitors from 66 countries. The 3rd International Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste, Recycling and Renewable Energy will take place at the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNIEC) in China from 23 to 25 September 2008.

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Messe München International (MMI) is one of the world's leading trade-fair organizations with approximately 40 trade fairs for investment goods, consumer goods and new technologies. More than 30,000 exhibitors from more than 100 countries and over two million visitors from more than 200 countries take part each year in the trade fairs in Munich. In addition, MMI organizes trade fairs in Asia, Russia, the Middle East and South America. With four foreign affiliated companies in Europe and Asia as well as 66 foreign representatives covering 89 countries, MMI has a global network.

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