# From Zero to Hero: Adoption of Zero Liquid Discharge across Industries

Abhirabh Basu Research Associate

The Great Energy Transition
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### Agenda

- > The problem with liquid discharge
- > Making a case for new technologies
- How it effects the future of industry

#### The Evolution of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)

- Water management strategy: that no liquid waste leaves the boundary of a facility
- Concept dates back to 1970s
  - > Began in the power industry.
  - An increase in salinity of the Colorado riverled to new regulations



2027

### ZERO (LIQUID) DISCHARGE UNDER CLEAN WATER ACT COMPLIANCE

The CWA's long-range goal is to reach zero discharge of pollutants, but the permits do not typically say "no discharge."

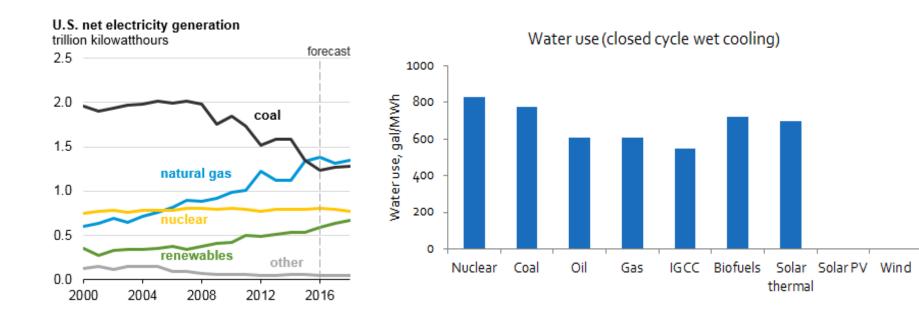
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JOSEPH COTRUVO APRIL 10, 2017



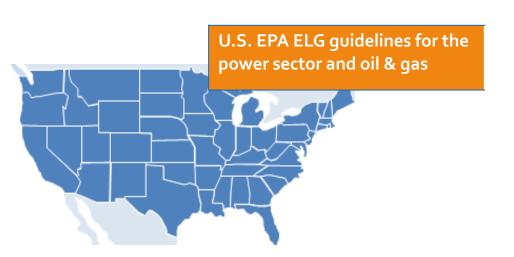
#### By far the largest water use is in cooling



- Thermoelectric power generation represents 45% of fresh water withdrawal in the U.S.
- > In Europe, the temperature of water discharge is more important
- Competing with renewables that have a negligible water footprint. Emerging regulations that limit water use through ZLD



### Emerging regulations are driving the market for industrial wastewater reuse







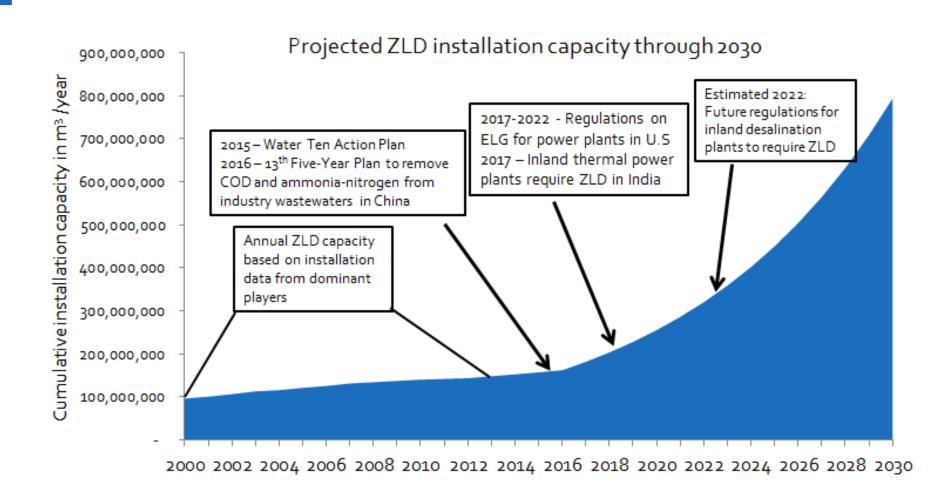


### More deployments...the market is growing





### Emerging regulations are driving the market for industrial wastewater reuse

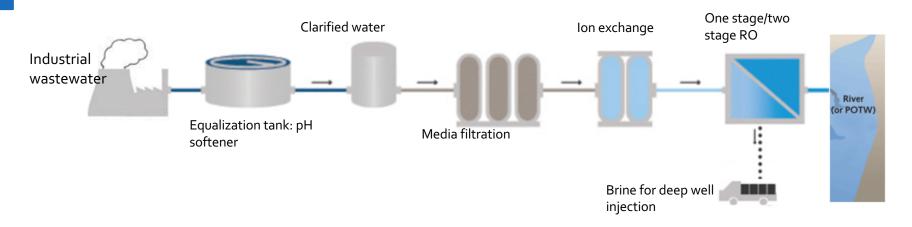


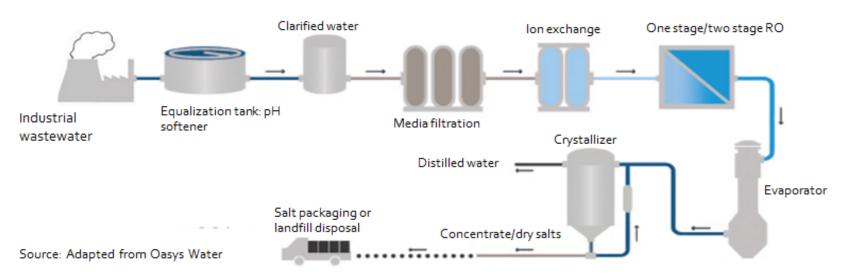


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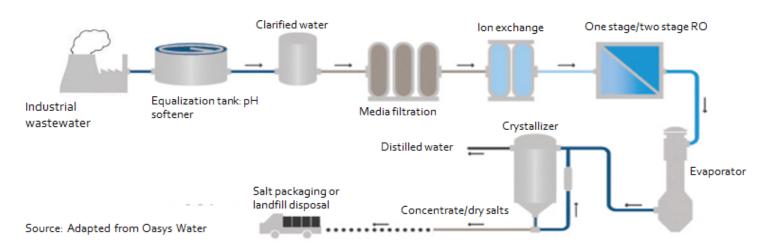
#### Typical treatment vs closed loop to achieve ZLD





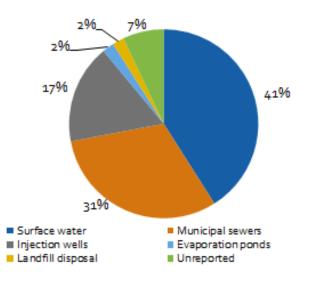


#### Closing the loop lowers brine disposal costs



- Brine disposal is a pain-point for inland facilities and remote industrial applications
- Traditionally, 72% of brine discharge ends up in surface water and at municipal treatment plant

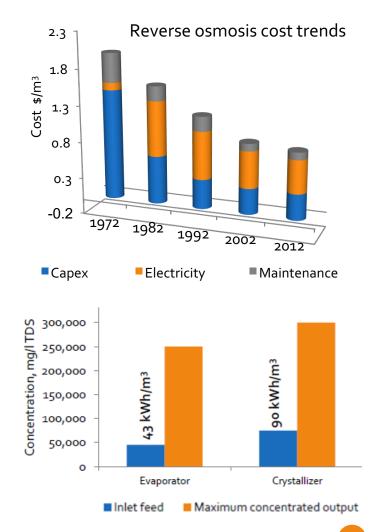
#### Brine discharge strategies for inland facilities





#### More energy intensive to concentrate brine

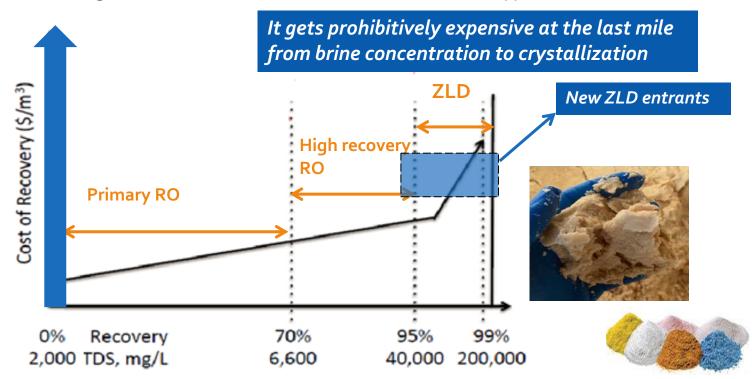
- Membrane technologies are approaching their theoretical energy limit
- Rethinking design can reduce some costs but have a limit for concentrating salts
- Methods to achieve ZLD are thermal systems and energy intensive
  - High salinity feeds cause fouling and scaling directly affecting operational costs





#### Its expensive to concentrate waste streams

- > It comes down to costs. Achieving ZLD is about finding the right economics
  - Reducing operating costs
  - Recovering water for reuse and alternative use of salts byproducts





### Summary of the key issues



> Trucking and brine disposal is a pain-point

#### One stage/two stage RO



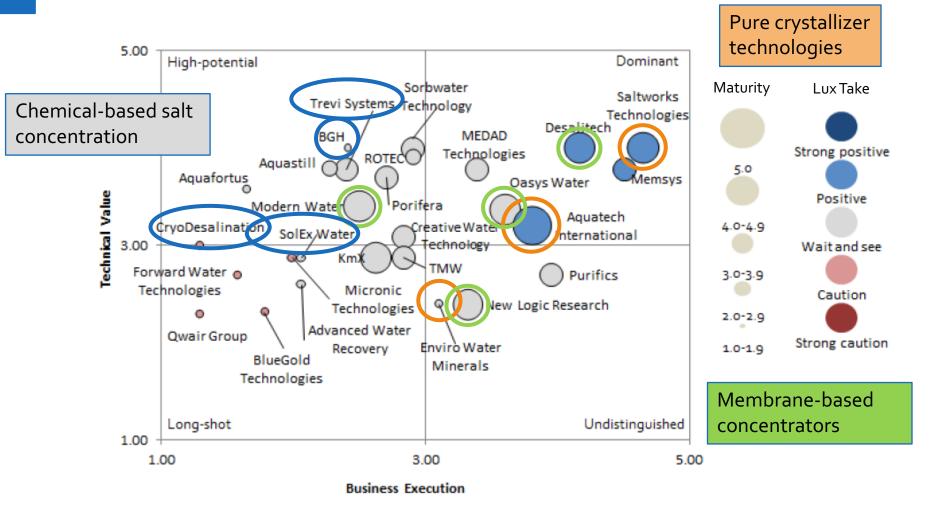
> Existing systems have their limits



> Energy consumption is extremely high

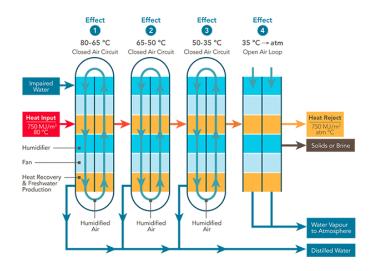


# Identifying the HEROs in ZLD through the Lux Innovation Grid (LIG)





#### Low fouling plug-n-play crystallizers

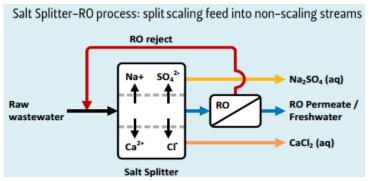






Introduction



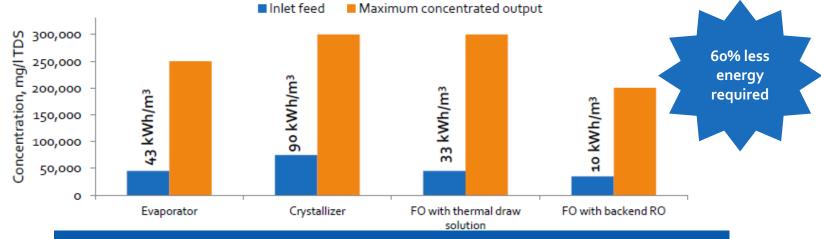


Headquarters:	Canada
Founded:	2008
Business Model:	Licenses Technology; Provides Services; Sells Product
Employees:	70
Cash:	\$12 million (i
Revenue:	\$16 million 🚺
Website:	www.saltworkstech.com

Eliminates the need for soda ash lime softening which can be 10% to 15% of operating cost

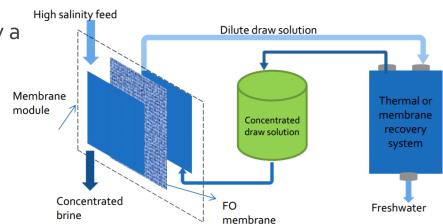
Italics indicate Lux Research estimated value

# Forward osmosis closes the gap between membrane-based desalination and crystallization



Reduces operational costs by replacing a secondary RO and evaporator

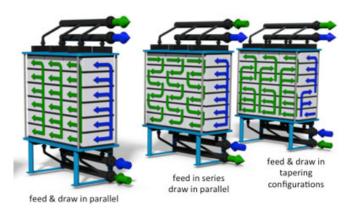
- Semipermeable membrane separated by a concentrated draw solution
- Companies are exploring low fouling membranes with a tolerance to high salinity feeds





#### **Trevi Systems**

- Membrane and polymer based draw solution to generate a high osmotic pressure
- Concentrates brine up to 250,000 ppm using only 10 kWh/m³ of electricity
- Reliance on "waste heat" to run the process at low energy







LUX TAKE

#### Several new developers build FO-ZLD













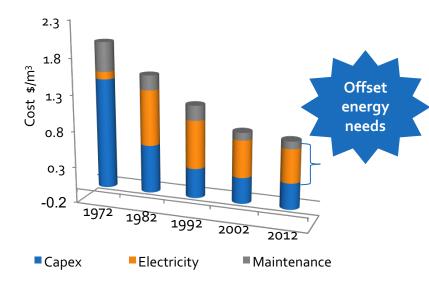
# Moving away from thermal systems to reduce energy consumption is not the answer

 Energy represent about a third to onehalf of the operating cost

Coupling systems with renewables or accessing waste heat will drive costs down











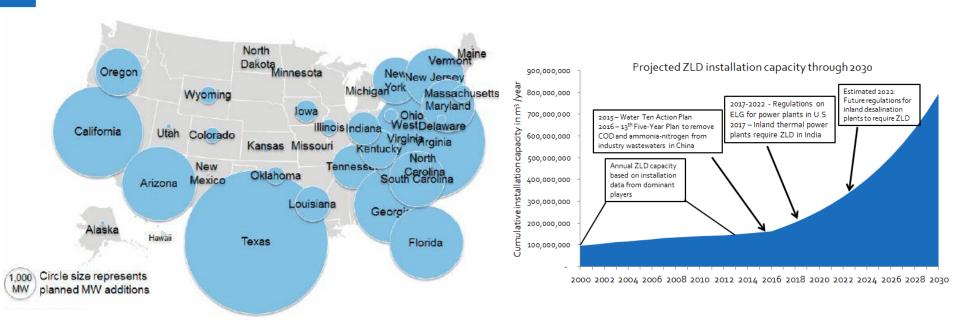




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# Water management remains a key part for optimizing energy operations



#### Thermal power capacity addition through 2025

- U.S. thermal power sector is evolving toward greater adoption of combined-cycle gas plants that all need cooling water
- There are incumbents, but the market continues to grow and there is space for innovation



#### Today ZLD affects every industry

Increasing cost of sourcing water and disposal Sourcing billions of gallons of freshwater in drought affected areas

Global fresh



Water and carbon footprint Stringent discharge regulations

**Emerging regulations** 

water Stress by Country: 2040

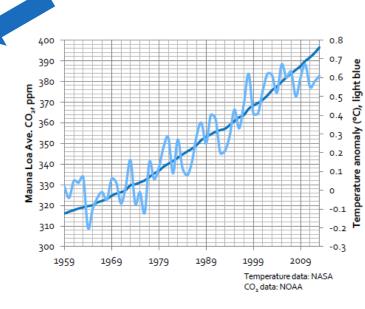
Water Stress by Country: 2040

Tatio of withdrawals to supply
Lov (> 10%)
Lov (> 10%)
High (40-80%)
High (40-80%)
Extremely high (> 80%)

NOTE: Projections are based on a business-as-usual scenario using SSP2 and RCP8.5.

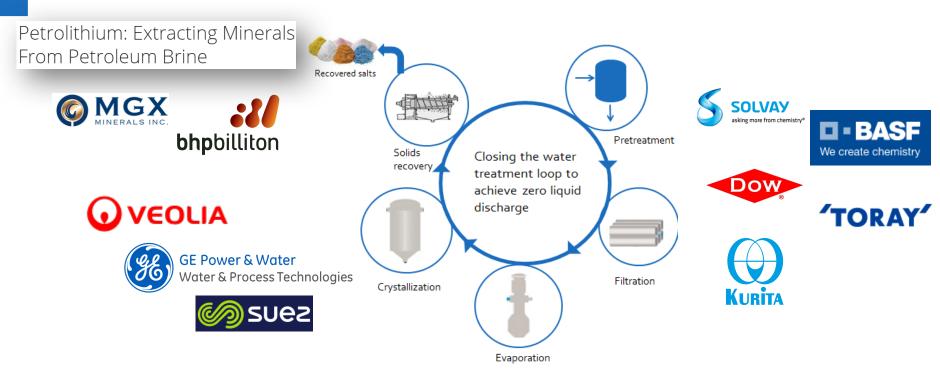
For more: ox.ly/RWOp

Water management strategy

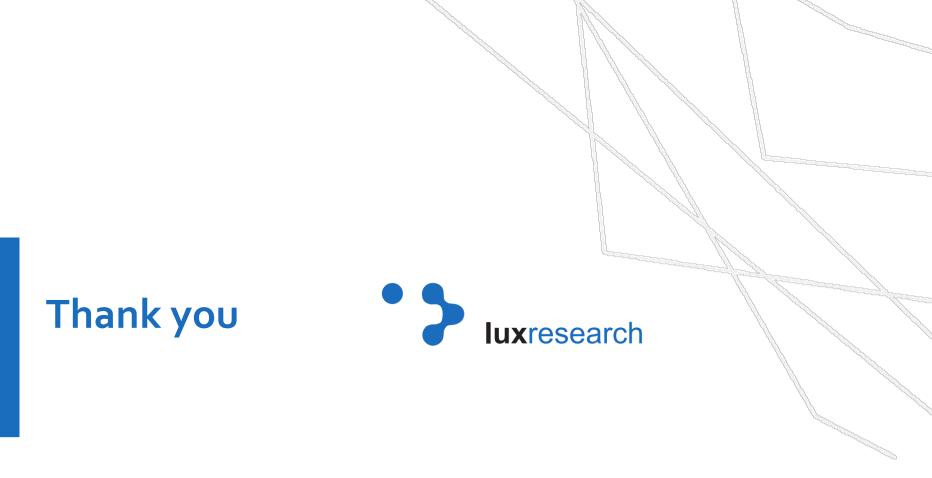




### Find methods to optimize the treatment train and recover more value



- > Part of the value chain? Improvements in upstream brine concentration can go a long way
- Finding new markets for recovery byproducts
  - > Mining for salts made easier
  - Recovery of rare earth and trace metals feeds back in to energy market ux executive summit



Abhirabh Basu Research Associate <u>abhirabh.basu@luxresearchinc.com</u> +31 (o) 631 366714