

Avista Appointment

Fiona Finlayson has recently joined the Edinburgh office of the international membrane experts, Avista Technologies. In her new role, Fiona is providing customised technical support to OEM's (original equipment manufacturers) and end-users in a diverse range of membrane separation applications, within markets including municipal water and wastewater treatment, desalination, brewing, power generation, oil production and general industry.

Fiona is a chartered chemical engineer with 12 years experience in industry covering research and development, process design, commissioning, sales, proposals, marketing and technical support to colleagues and end-users.

As part of her chemical engineering studies at Edinburgh University, Fiona undertook research into the rejection characteristics and fouling mechanisms of commercial UF (ultra-filtration) hollow fibre membranes. Fiona then worked on radioactive waste treatment for her undergraduate sponsor's, AEA Technology, before joining the engineering contractors Barr & Wray in 1994. Here she designed, supervised the construction and commissioned a number of projects including a brackish water RO (reverse osmosis) system for a semiconductor plant, a system to produce 1 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ conductivity make-up water for printing ink and a 15 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ion exchange plant for a distillery.

Having moved to Weir Westgarth in 1996, Fiona worked in process design and technical sales on seawater RO plants and sulphate removal systems. She also undertook RO commissioning activities in the Philippines.

Avista's trouble-shooting expertise will be enhanced by Fiona's appointment. She will assist clients to improve their process operation by organising membrane autopsies (incorporating flat cell, vacuum and dye tests), specialist cleaning trials, off-site membrane cleaning and restoration work and analysis of process streams. Fiona will also design and optimise specific antiscalant, membrane cleaning, biocide and coagulant chemical requirements utilising specialist Avista products.

Fiona has joined an organisation with a global turn-over in excess of US\$ 3 Million. Avista Technologies have focused their responsive service-support network in the field of membrane separation by providing a complete range of membrane technology services and related products in addition to antiscalant chemicals. This total capability ensures that the membrane technologist is able to minimise the operating cost and maximise the life of their membrane system, reducing significantly the whole life costs of a project. As Avista are not tied to a specific OEM or a specific application, an impartial and effective assessment of customer requirements is guaranteed. Avista are able to support membrane technologists with initial feasibility studies through the provision of membrane pilot plants and associated specialised research and development support. Also, Avista's recently developed *Avista Advisor* software package provides the membrane technologist with an essential tool for enhancing and optimising membrane systems.

To find out more about Avista Technologies you can visit Fiona and her colleagues at their exhibitions at EDS / IWA in Mulheim, Germany 22nd - 26th September, or at Aquatech in Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1st – 4th October. Further information on these exhibitions, a copy of the *Avista Advisor* and / or additional information on Avista's products and services can be obtained by contacting Fiona directly at Avista Technologies (UK) Limited, Waterside House, Edinburgh EH14 5ZL, United Kingdom. Tel +44 (0) 131 449 6677, Fax. +44 (0) 131 449 5599, E-Mail ffinlayson@avistatech.co.uk Website <http://www.avistatech.co.uk>