# Subitec GmbH proven technology with 20 years of expertise in microalgae biotechnology

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Established in 2000 as a spinoff from the Fraunhofer Institute

More than 20 years of experience with microalgae

Process engineering and supply of cultivation equipment

Located in Stuttgart, Germany





### Subitec in Brief

Efficient light utilization

- No chemical/gaseous gradients
- Excellent process reproducibility
- Straightforward process control
- High volumetric productivity
  High biomass concentration



Our Technology – The FPA Photobioreactor The Subitec FPA reactor brings the algae to the light



### **Products and Services**

Manual, semi-automatic, fully automatic cultivation systems

Proven cleaning and decontamination routines

Supplied also with single-use or sterilised reactors



Laboratory Cultivation Equipment < 1 kg Biomass / Month with 6 Liter Reactor Capacity



Manual, semi-automatic, fully automatic cultivation systems

Proven cleaning and decontamination routines

Also supplied with single-use, sterilised reactors



Equipment for Scale-Up and Small Scale Production < 5 kg Biomass per Month, 28...168 Liter Reactor Capacity



Indoor, greenhouse, outdoor

Integrated media preparation and harvesting systems

Exact representation of production conditions



Pilot Plants for Simulating Production Conditions 1...100 kg Biomass / Month with 180...3000 Liter Reactor Capacity



Indoor, greenhouse, outdoor

Automatic process control

Integrated cleaning and decontamination



### Production Plants 1...100 Mta Biomass / Month with >10 m<sup>3</sup> Reactor Capacity



### (Pre-)feasibility studies

Cultivation studies, process development and optimization

research and development

Supply of equipment and associated technical support



### Services and Expertise Your partner in developing your ideas to commercial applications

# CONCEPTION – PROCESS AND FPA DESIGN VARIABLES

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### User Requirements

- Application and algae
- Production requirements
- Regional and site specific requirements
- Process development and testing requirements

- Requirements Summar

- Schedule and budget requirements
- Form a common understanding of :
- the project goals
- the project scope
- the process requirements and,
- technical and other constraints







### **Process Design – Reactor System**

- Alga specific productivity data, number and type of reactor modules, number or reactors in module, single or two stage process
- Number and type of lighting units, light intensity, static or variable intensity and spectrum, light controls, light distribution, light pollution prevention
- Gas supply and distribution, air and CO<sub>2</sub> source and quality, filtration and preconditioning, automatic or manual flow control and exhaust
- Temperature control: culture temperature, lighting system, environment







### **Process Design – Process and Utilities**

- Inoculation system, pre-and starter culture holding, scale-up chain, process integrity upon culture transfer
- Media feed system, capacity, manual or automatic media preparation, filtration, feed, one or multiple media consistencies, cleaning and disinfecting.
- Harvesting system, method i.e. time or OD, automatic or manual e.g. sampling, harvest collection and transfer, harvest tank capacity.
- Cleaning and disinfection system, manual or automatic, chemical cleaning process, frequency and cleaning and disinfecting agents, sterilization – i.e. single-use technology available for axenic processing.
- Drainage and waste management, recycling?







### **Process Design – Downstream**

- Downstream processing dependent on required end product e.g. paste, dried product or extract
- Inhouse or outsourced to contract partners
- If outsourced, clarify product quality required for successful contract downstream processing e.g.
  - cell rupture
  - dried product moisture content
  - purity and content of desired ingredients
  - moisture content etc...
- Packaging and logistics
- Quality assurance









### Layout Design

- Efficient utilization of available area, maximize area productivity
- Communicate and define interfaces with all parties involved, minimize risk of conflicts
- Well thought material and personnel flow improves safety and reduces risk of contamination
- Easily accessible operating areas and operator interfaces, keep walking distances short
- Provide sufficient service and maintenance access and areas to all equipment



3,3m<sup>3</sup> reactor volume outdoor arrangement

5,4m<sup>3</sup> reactor volume greenhouse, indoor

10,8m<sup>3</sup> reactor volume indoor, compact





### **Automation**







### **Electrification and Automation**

- Functional Design Specification describing all processes, manual, semi-automatic, automatic operations, alarms and operator functions
- Electrical design and control system architechture describing power supply and distribution, process automation platform and operator interfaces
- Process visualization and reporting
- Data recording requirements
- Security and access
- INTERFACES!!!







- Interfaces, Handshakes, Integration
- Alarms, plant safety systems and emergency procedures
- Building, climate control, facilities and infrastructure
- Sub processes, utilities and process inflows e.g. air, CO<sub>2</sub>, process- and cooling water etc...
- Downstream processing
- Waste management







## Scheduling



- Include sufficient time in plan for review and approval of critical design documents
- Ensure transparency so that all parties work on the same schedule basis
- Prep scale-up culture to allow efficient commissioning after start-up
- Include contingency both in budget and schedule for the unexpected









Receipt of major components

Move-in and Placement

Receipt of FPA reactors







Site prep

Start Frame work and pipe runs

**FPA Assembly** 







Framework and piping done

Mechanical and Electrical installation completed

**Begin Electrical Installation** 







Cleanup and prep for Start-up

Start-up and Testing Completed

Commissioning completed





- Thorough clarification, consultation and understanding of the user requirements is the basis for a feasible and satisfying outcome of any project. This can and should be formalized in writing.
- Uncertainty can be minimized by testing e.g. cultivation studies, process development and testing of different dewatering and drying techniques, extraction methods etc...
- In addition to formal training, the start-up and testing phase should be used as an opportunity to familiarize and train the users operation and maintenance staff on the equipment.

- Critical design documents e.g. process flow diagram, layout, functional design specification, electrical design and control system architecture should be reviewed and approved by the user or a qualified representative of the user. Once approved, any change or revision shall be subject to approval.
- Good project management practices and policies, open communication, transparency and documentation of project execution helps avoid costly pitfalls for all parties e.g. interfaces.



# VES, IT'S PLASTIK – AND IT WORKS FINE!

- UV resistance, e.g. PMMA
- Light transparency as glass
- Excellent scratch resistance
- Light weight easy installation and service
- Can be formed to optimize performance





# Thank you for your kind attention!







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