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Qponics Update – 19 August 2019

Progress in upgrading the algae farm in Brisbane

The upgrade to the pilot algae farm is nearing completion with several final tasks in progress.

The Liqoflux ultrafiltration system is now mounted on an elevated platform (image below left) to allow the pre-concentrated algal slurry to efficiently drain into the plastic tank shown. The commissioning of the automated Evodos 25 algae centrifuge is concluding (image below right) and is expected to be operational by the end of August.



The custom-made stainless steel immersible pump to be installed in the Brisbane River to pump water onto the algae farm has been delivered. Brackish water from the river with the ideal salinity will be microfiltered and ultrafiltered and stored in 64.3kL water tanks before used in the pond. This pump, together with the Liqoflux and the Evodos 25, is an essential component that must be operational before the new 65m x 12m algae pond can be filled and inoculated with *Nannochloropsis* to produce the first harvest using all elements of the new process.

Nannochloropsis has been successfully harvested from one of the older and smaller ponds, using the Liqoflux to preconcentrate the algae up to 50-fold, prior to centrifugation using the older manual and slower centrifuge. The quality of the EPA omega-3 rich oil extracted from the algae and its high-protein biomass by-product have both been noticeably improved, probably as a direct result of using the gentler Liqoflux ultrafiltration pre-concentration step prior to centrifugation.

Samples of the EPA oil and the high-protein biomass by-product produced by the improved process have been sent to prospective offtakers.

Dr Graeme Barnett
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director