



# DairyWater Project

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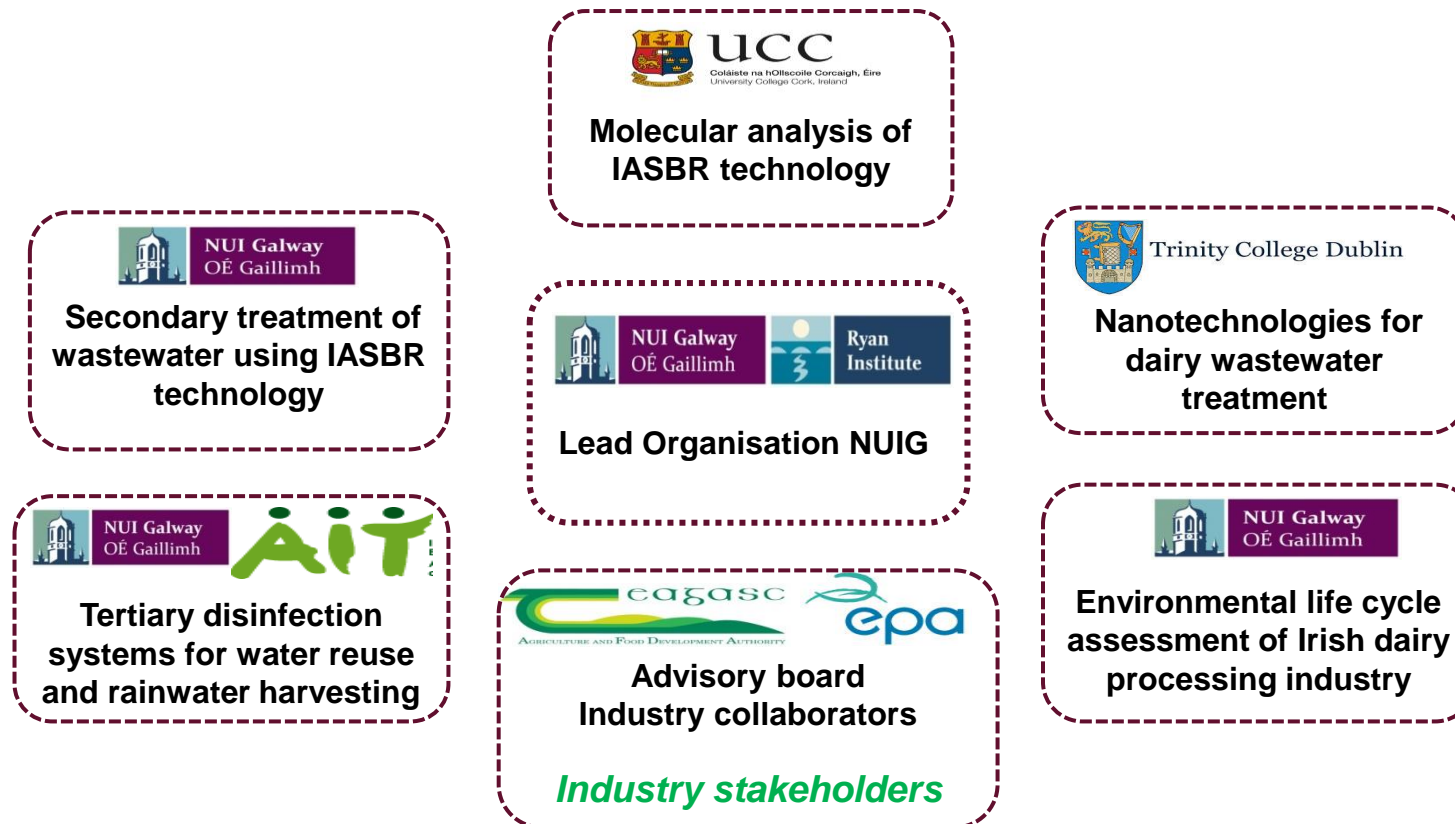
Edinburgh 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021



# DairyWater

# DairyWater Overview

- Funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Aims to help the dairy processing industry increase its sustainability through increased efficiency of resource consumption



# Environmental LCA of Irish dairy products

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- **Aim:** Develop strategies to reduce the environmental impact of the Irish dairy processing industry
- Objectives:
  - Perform an initial assessment of the global warming potential of the Irish dairy sector
  - Assess the environmental impact of the manufacture of Irish dairy products (using a detailed survey of factories)
  - Calculate potential mitigating effects of DairyWater technologies

# Discussion points

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- The results of this study will serve as a **benchmark for the Irish dairy industry** as individual producers and processors can evaluate and compare their performance in comparison.
  - Inform policy makers (e.g. EPA) of the significant contributors to environmental impacts as there is evidence for the inclusion of indirect impacts
  - Methods used in the current study may be incorporated into similar international studies.
- The findings of this research highlight a number of areas where plans may be implemented in order **to achieve more 'environmentally friendly' production of dairy products in Ireland.**
- How do the **seasonal variations** in milk production affect the Irish dairy processing industry?

# Environmental LCA of Irish dairy processing plants

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Science of the Total Environment 579 (2017) 159–168



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)



## Environmental impacts of milk powder and butter manufactured in the Republic of Ireland



William Finnegan <sup>a,b</sup>, Jamie Goggins <sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Eoghan Clifford <sup>a,b</sup>, Xinmin Zhan <sup>a,b</sup>

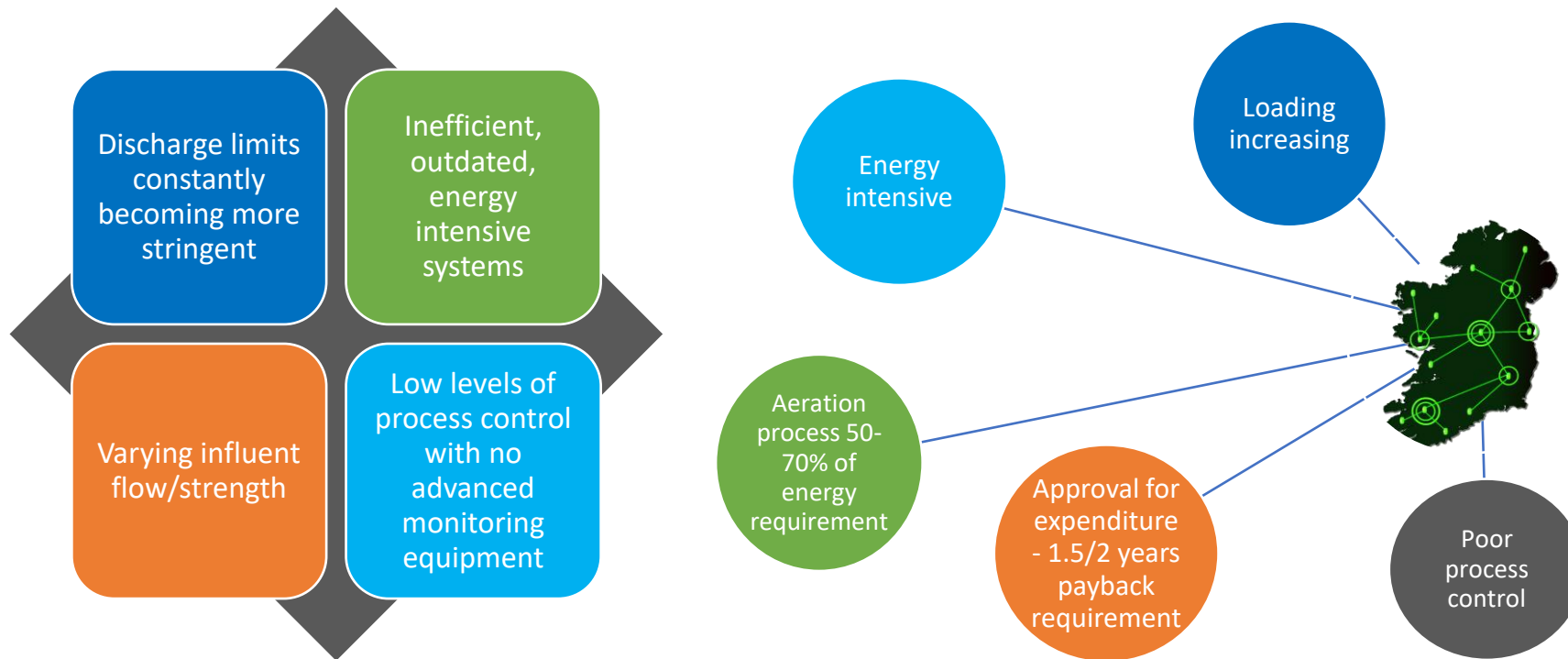
<sup>a</sup> College of Engineering and Informatics, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

<sup>b</sup> Ryan Institute for Environmental, Marine and Energy Research, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

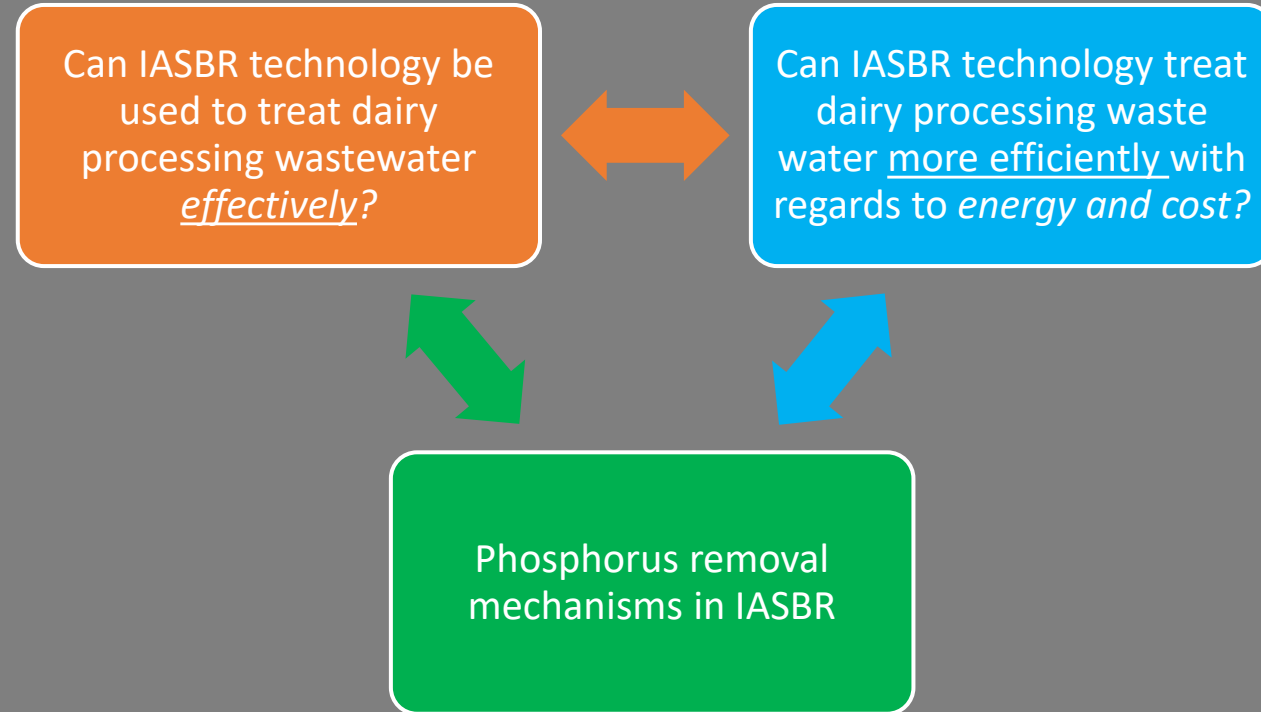
<sup>c</sup> Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy (MaREI), Galway, Ireland

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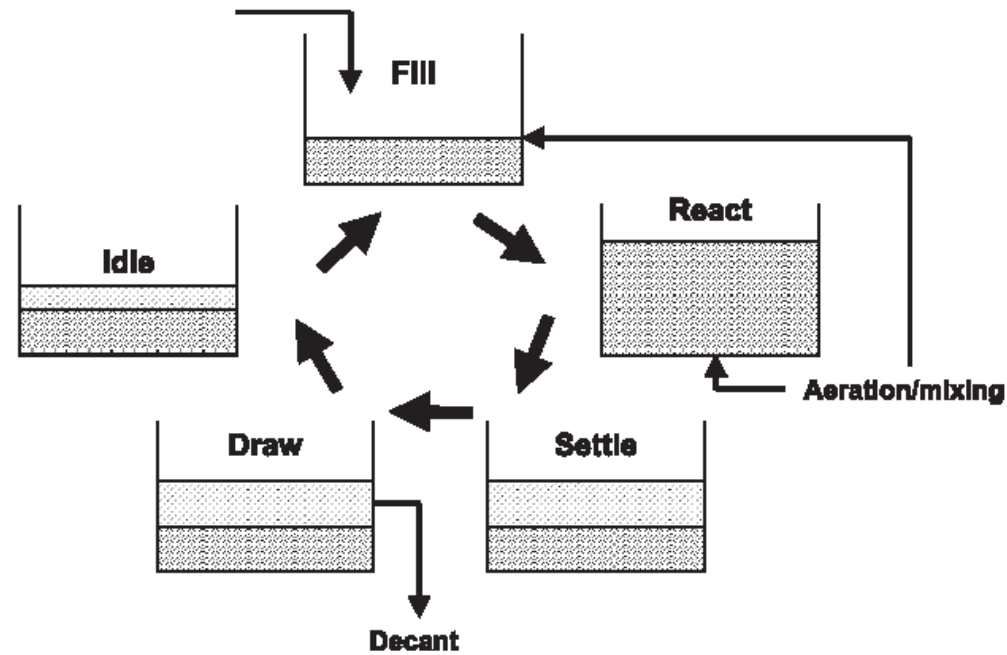
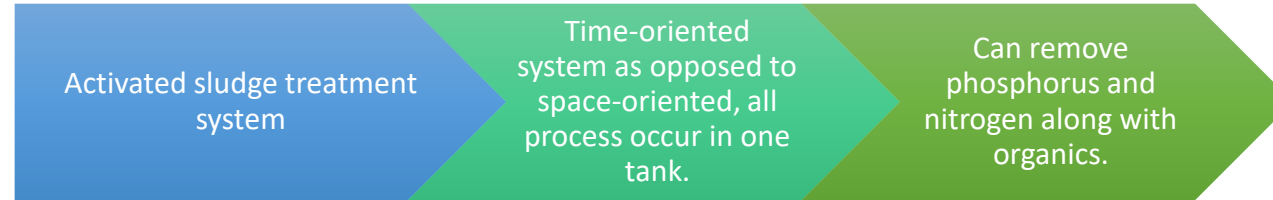
# Challenges in dairy processing wastewater treatment



# Key Research Questions



# Sequencing Batch Reactors

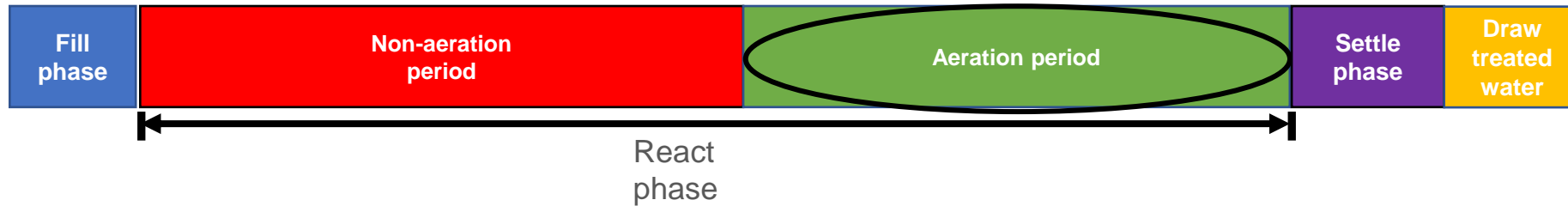




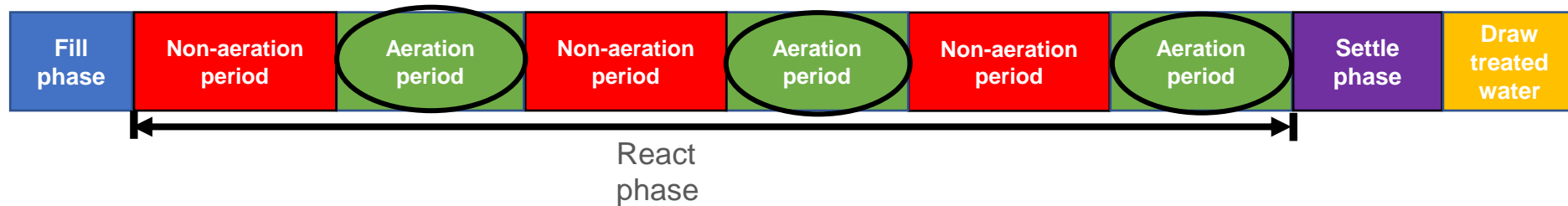
# Background

What is an IASBR?

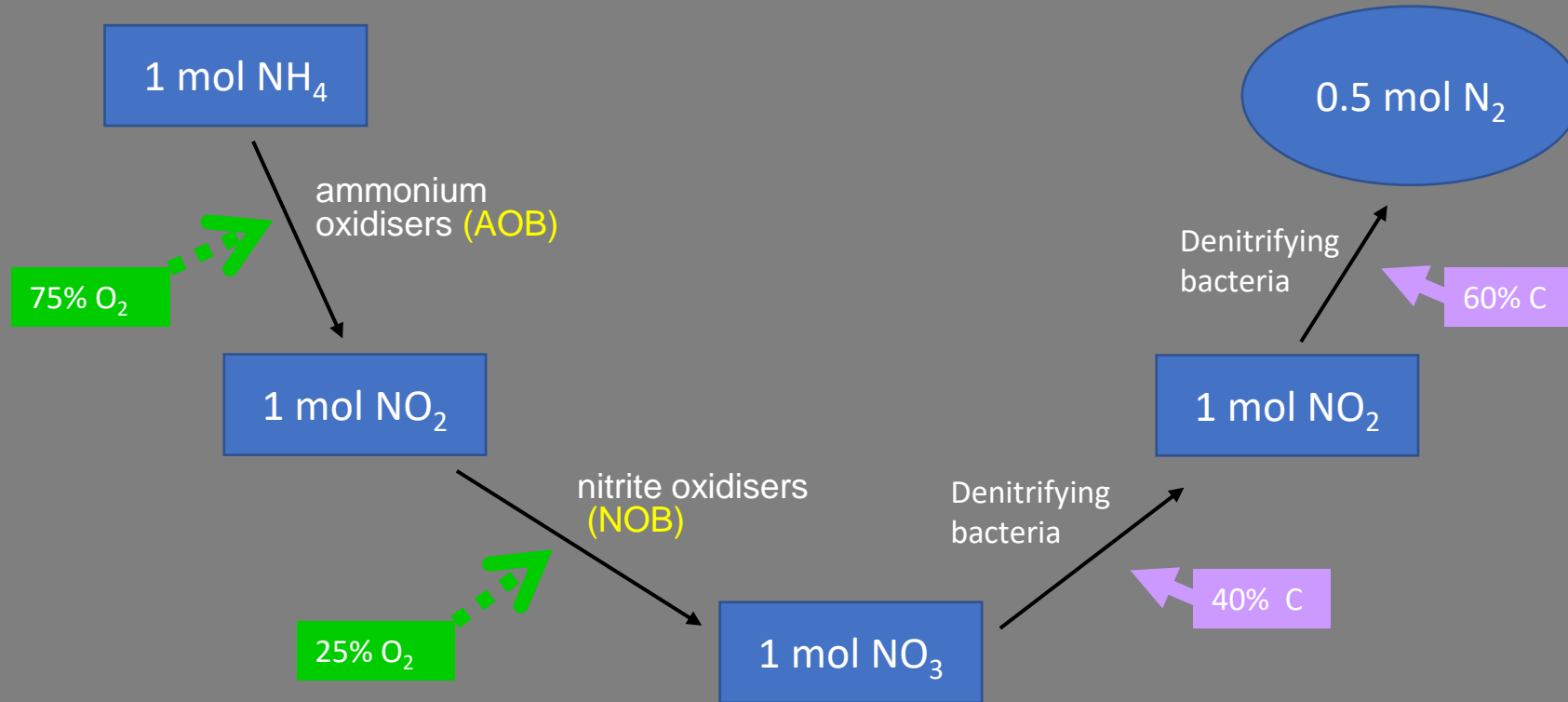
SBR – **Sequencing Batch Reactor**



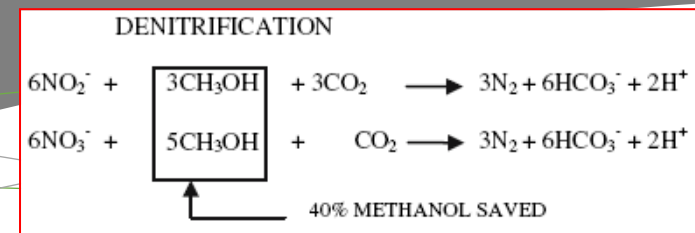
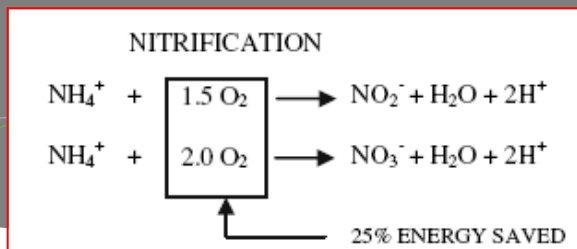
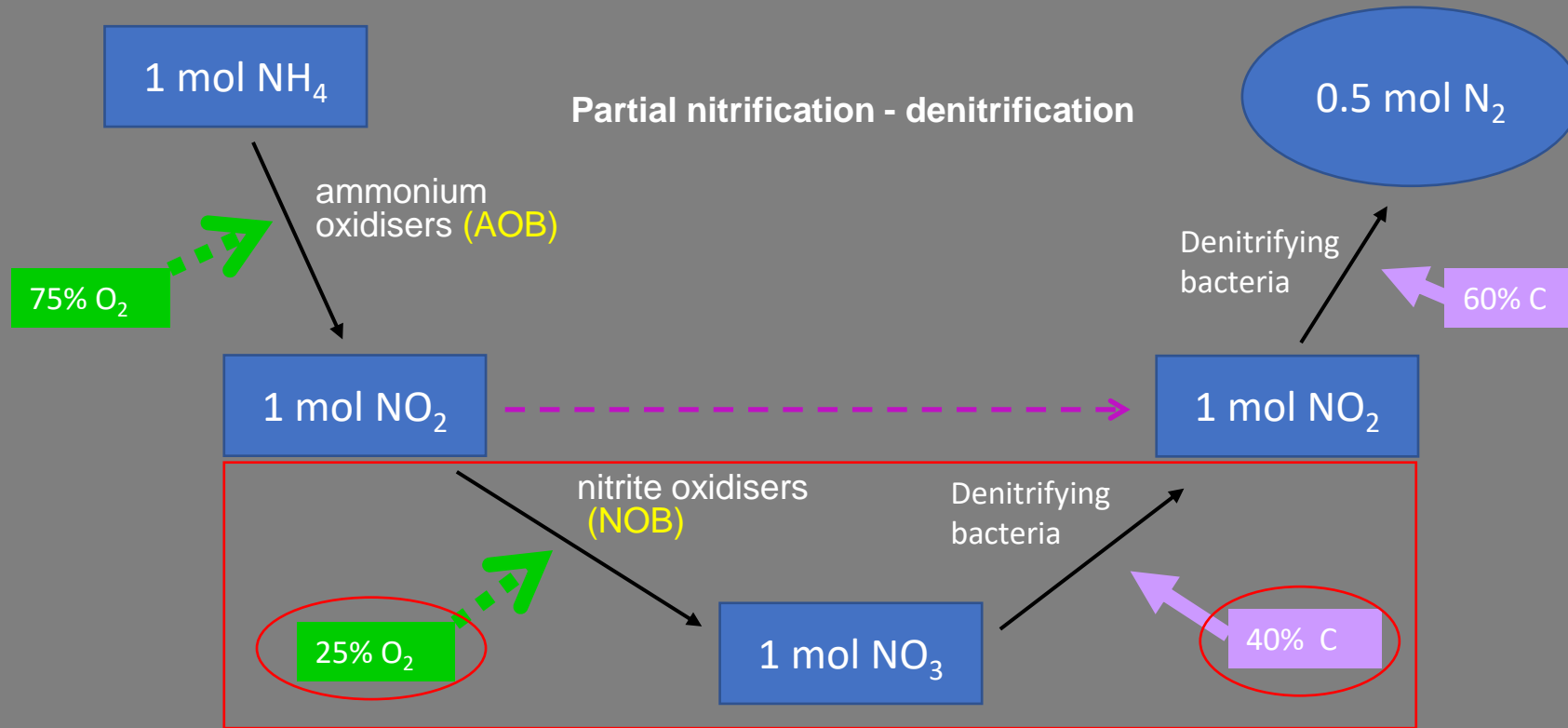
IASBR – **Intermittently Aerated Sequencing Batch Reactor**



# Conventional Biological nitrogen removal (BNR) pathway



# IASBR Nitrogen removal pathway (via PND)



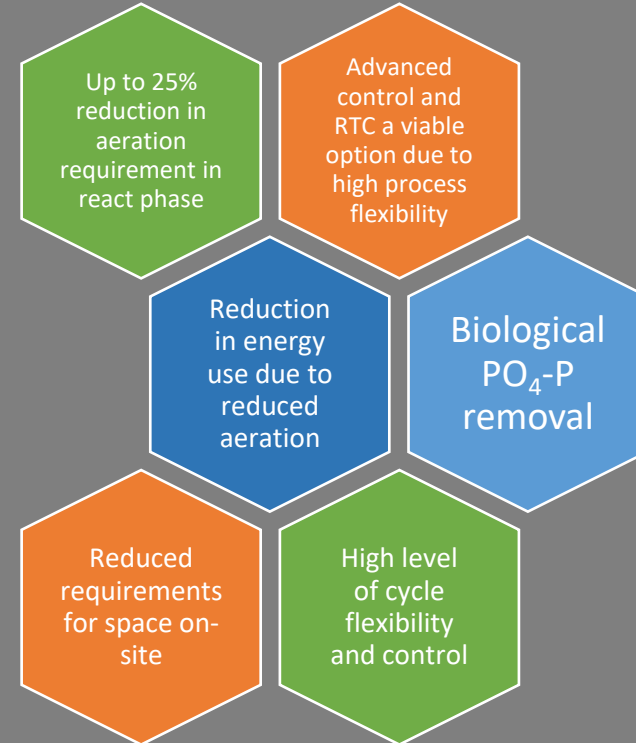
# IASBR Advantages

Intermittent aeration in the react phase can achieve more efficient PND if managed correctly

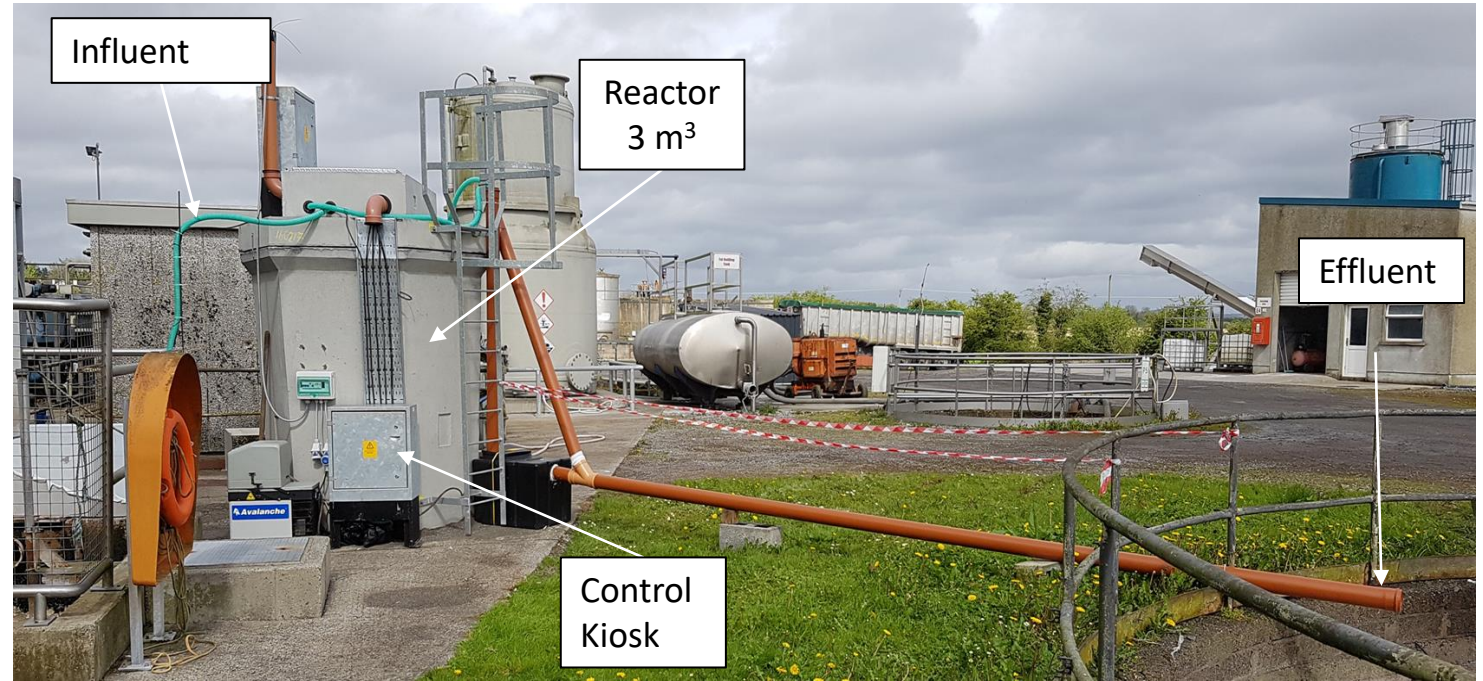
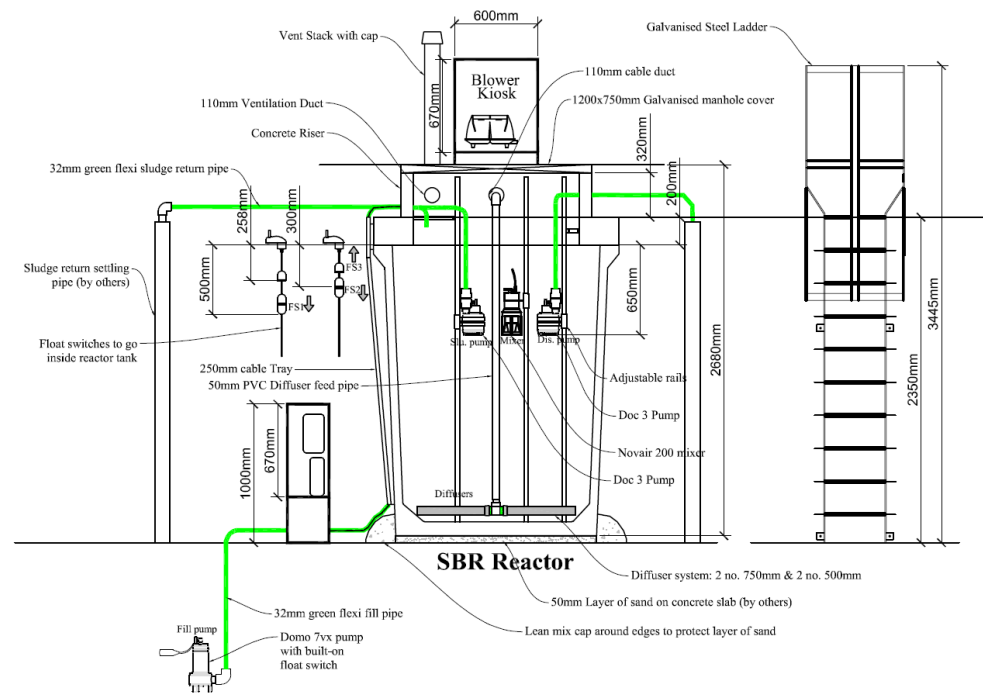
Reduced energy requirement

IASBR offers a degree of process control that other systems do not (advanced control, RTC potential)

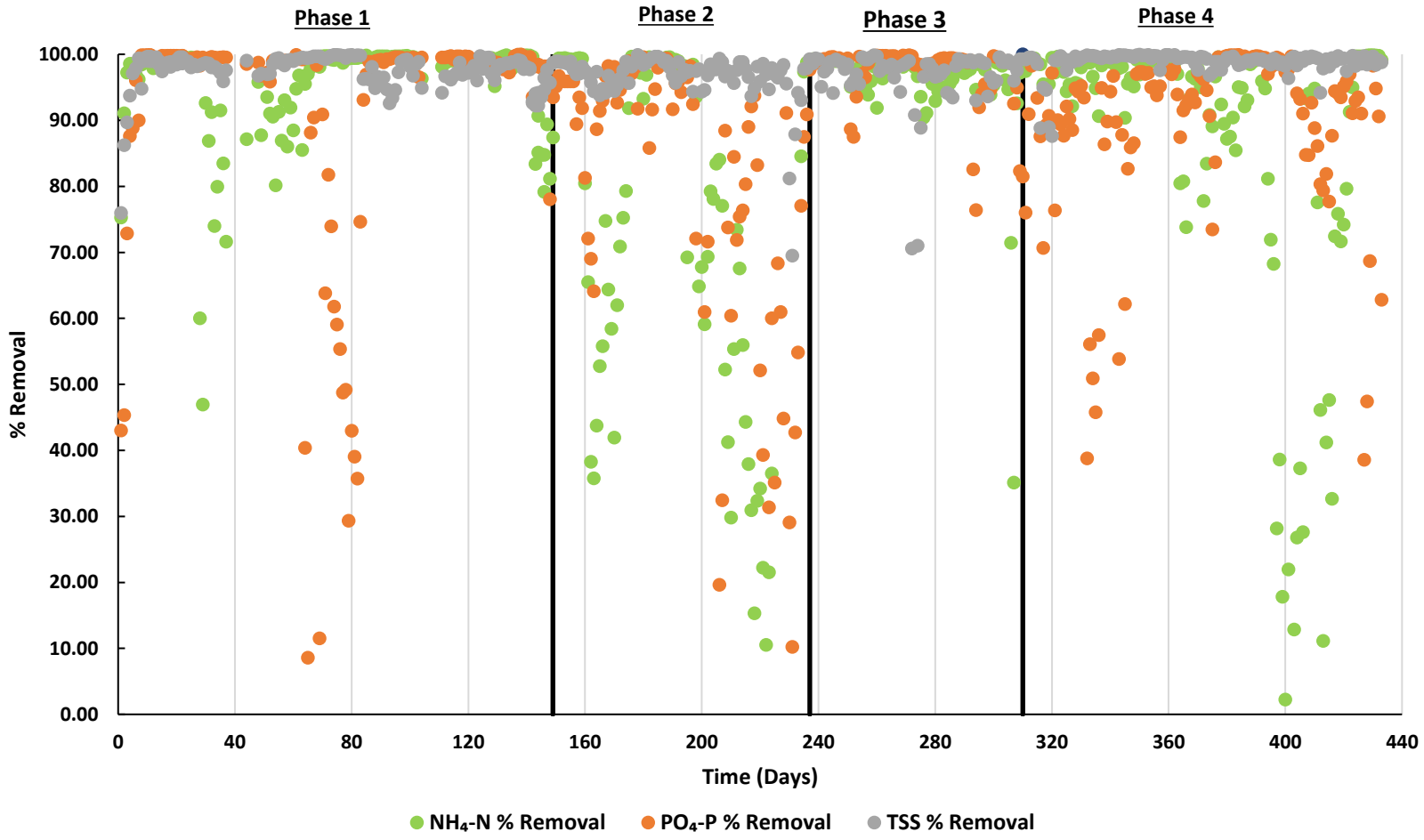
System highly resilient to shock loads and changes in influent strength



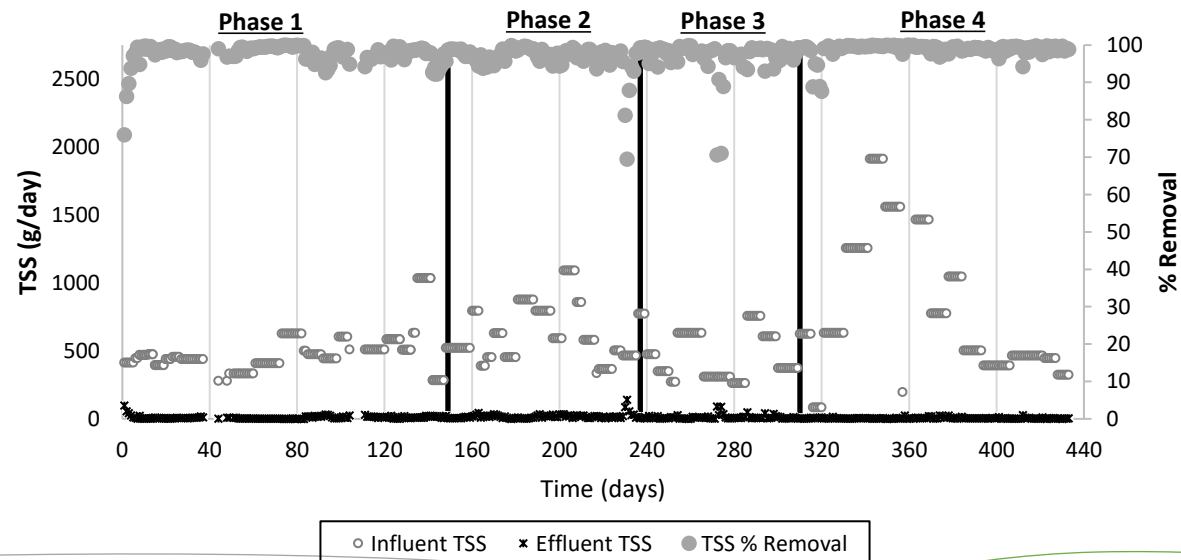
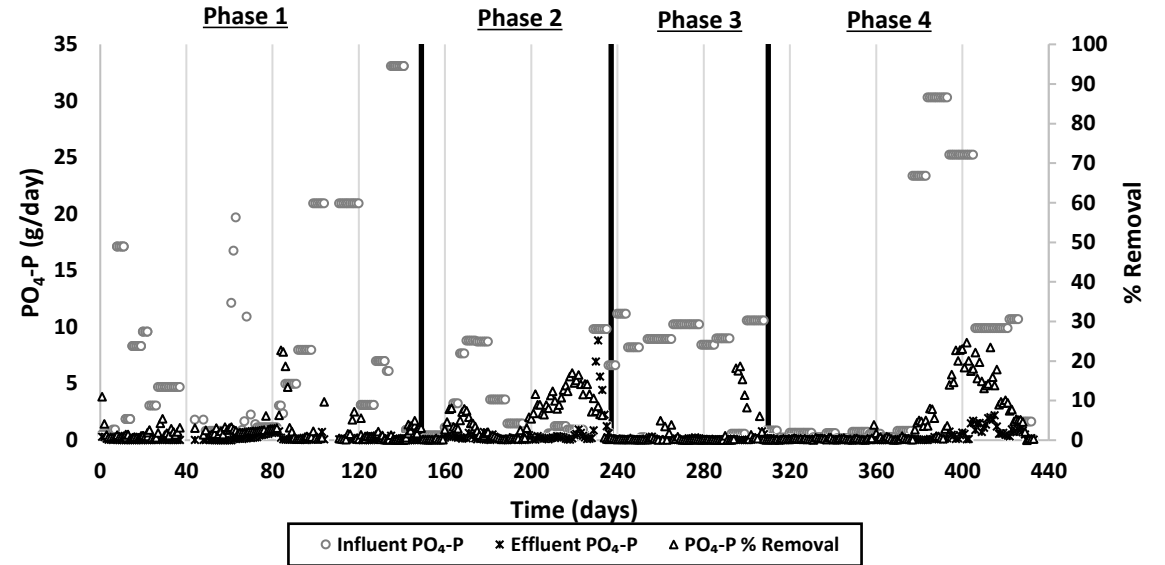
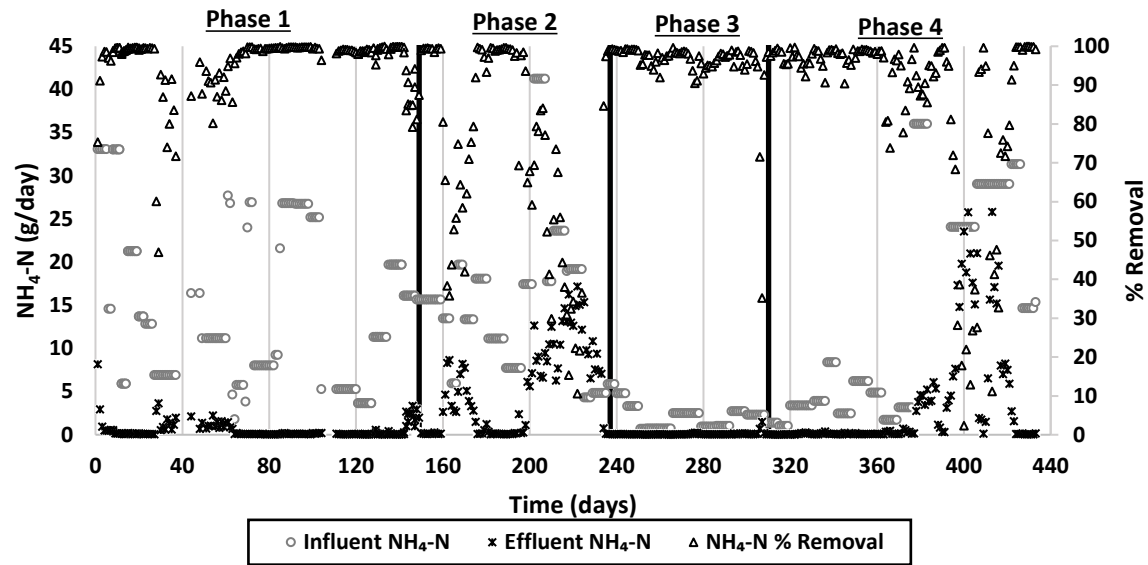
# IASBR Pilot: Irish Dairy Processing WWTP



# Results: Pilot scale IASBR testing



# Results: Pilot scale IASBR removals



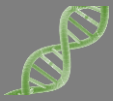
# IASBR - Conclusions

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Investigation has exhibited that the IASBR system has a high capacity to simultaneously remove the following from wastewater:

- Suspended solids
- Organic carbon
- Nitrogen (Organic N,  $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ )
- Phosphorus ( $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$ )



Biological system - More economical and sustainable wastewater treatment option than requiring chemical P removal



Technology can be easily scaled up for industrial use and has been demonstrated effective at full scale in municipal treatment



Removal efficiencies are high and demonstrates high performance of the system – further optimisation will enhance system efficiency and effectiveness



Under varying wastewater strengths energy can be wasted in a constant mode reactor, savings have been demonstrated using RTC






# IASBR for dairy processing wastewater treatment

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*Article*

## Deployment and Optimisation of a Pilot-Scale IASBR System for Treatment of Dairy Processing Wastewater

Peter Leonard <sup>1,2</sup>, Eoghan Clifford <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, William Finnegan <sup>1,2,3</sup>, Alma Siggins <sup>1,2,4</sup> and Xinmin Zhan <sup>1,2,3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> SFI MaREI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, National University of Ireland, H91 TK33 Galway, Ireland

<sup>4</sup> School of Natural Science, College of Science and Engineering, National University of Ireland, H91 TK33 Galway, Ireland

# Molecular analysis of IASBR

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- To investigate changes in the microbial ecological structure of laboratory-scale and pilot-scale intermittently aerated sequencing batch reactors (IASBRs) treating dairy influents.
- To correlate ecological shift with the biological nutrient removal profiles in the bioreactors (efficiency and stability in bioreactor performance).
- Analysis of relevant functional gene diversity during high efficiency nutrient removal.
- Recommendation for optimal system design of bioreactors.

# Molecular ecology based analysis of IASBR

Biotechnology Reports 19 (2018) e00263



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Biotechnology Reports

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/btre](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/btre)



## Evaluation of dairy processing wastewater biotreatment in an IASBR system: Aeration rate impacts on performance and microbial ecology

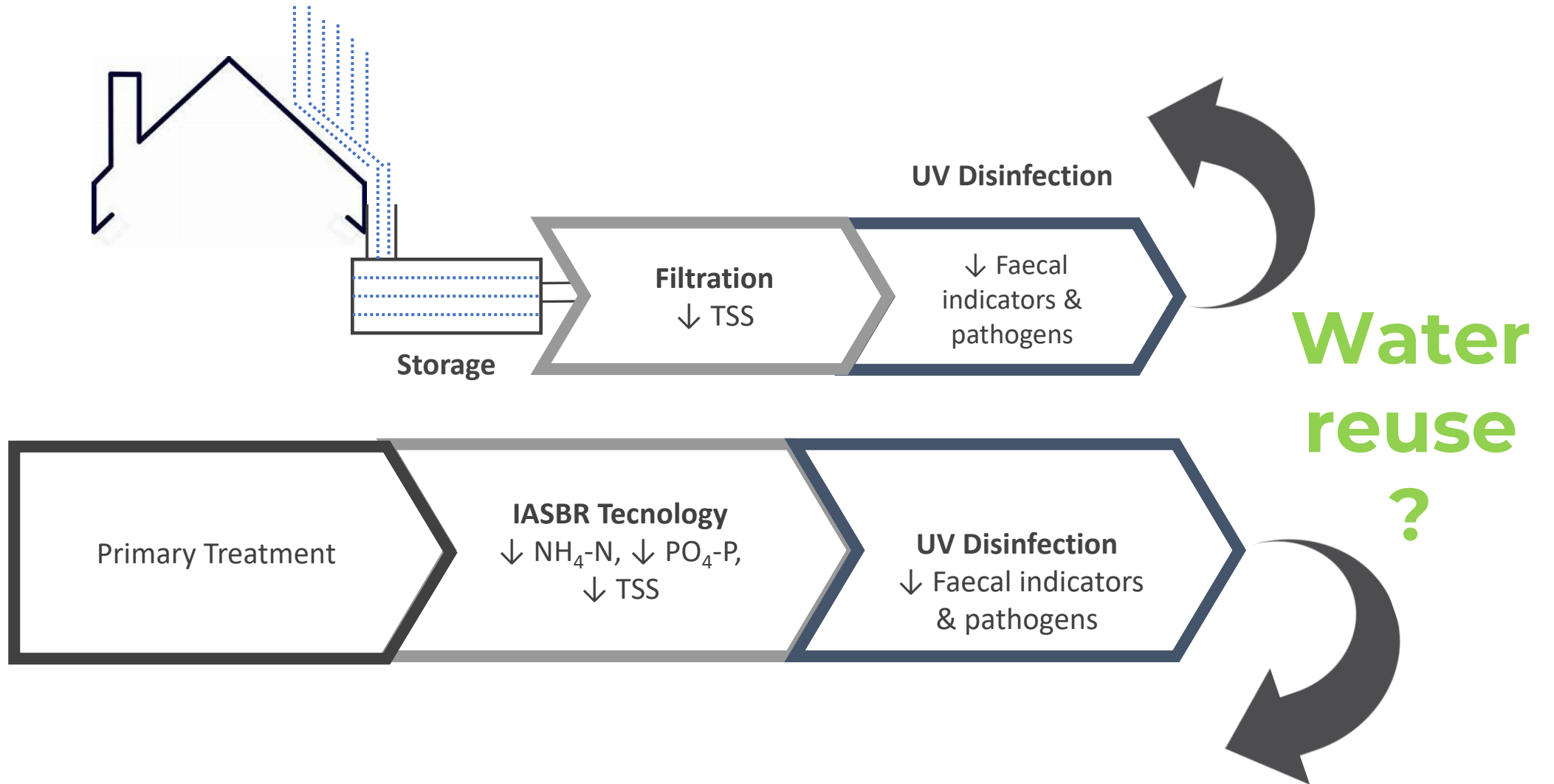
Beatriz Gil-Pulido<sup>a,b</sup>, Emma Tarpey<sup>c</sup>, Eduardo L. Almeida<sup>a,b</sup>, William Finnegan<sup>c</sup>,  
Xinmin Zhan<sup>c</sup>, Alan D.W. Dobson<sup>a,b</sup>, Niall O'Leary<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

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<sup>c</sup> College of Engineering and Informatics, National University of Ireland Galway, University Road, Galway H91 TK33, Ireland

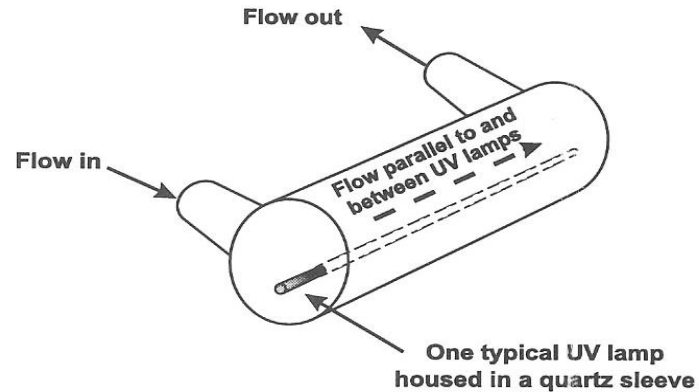
# IASBR AND UV TECHNOLOGY



# UV TECHNOLOGIES FOR WASTEWATER DISINFECTION & REUSE IN THE IRISH DAIRY INDUSTRY

## STANDARD LPUV DISINFECTION SYSTEM

- Stainless steel, fixed power, closed system
- Continuous flow
- Monochromatic UV light



VS.

## PULSED UV TECHNOLOGY

- Typically used as a static system
- Voltage box & xenon flash lamp
- High energy, polychromatic light
- *Claranor* – food industry



# UV TECHNOLOGIES FOR WASTEWATER DISINFECTION & REUSE IN THE IRISH DAIRY INDUSTRY

Journal of Water Process Engineering 41 (2021) 102070

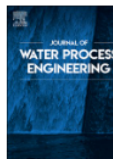


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Journal of Water Process Engineering

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Journal of Water Process Engineering 27 (2019) 67–76



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Journal of Water Process Engineering

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jwpe](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jwpe)



Bacterial inactivation, photoreactivation and dark repair post flow-through pulsed UV disinfection



Kelly Fitzhenry<sup>a</sup>, Eoghan Clifford<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Neil Rowan<sup>c</sup>, Angeles Val del Rio<sup>a,d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Engineering, NUI Galway, Ireland

<sup>b</sup> Ryan Institute for Environment, Marine and Energy, NUI Galway, Ireland

<sup>c</sup> Bioscience Research Institute, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

<sup>d</sup> School of Engineering, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Inactivation efficiency of *Bacillus* endospores via modified flow-through PUV treatment with comparison to conventional LPUV treatment



K. Fitzhenry<sup>a,\*</sup>, N. Rowan<sup>b</sup>, A. Val del Rio<sup>a,d</sup>, A. Cremillieux<sup>e</sup>, E. Clifford<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> College of Engineering and Informatics, NUI Galway, Ireland

<sup>b</sup> Bioscience Research Institute, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

<sup>c</sup> Ryan Institute for Environment, Marine and Energy, NUI Galway, Ireland

<sup>d</sup> School of Engineering, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

<sup>e</sup> Département Génie Énergétique et Environnement, INSA Lyon, France

# Publications

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## Peer-reviewed Journal papers:

- Leonard, P.; Clifford, E.; Finnegan, W.; Siggins, A.; Zhan, X. Deployment and Optimisation of a Pilot-Scale IASBR System for Treatment of Dairy Processing Wastewater. *Energies* **2021**, *14*, 7365. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en14217365>
- Fitzhenry, K., Clifford, E., Rowan, N., Val Del Rio, A., 2021. Bacterial inactivation, photoreactivation and dark repair post flow-through pulsed UV disinfection. *Journal of Water Process Engineering* *41*, 102070.. doi:10.1016/j.jwpe.2021.102070
- Fitzhenry, Rowan, Val Del Rio, Cremillieux, and Clifford. "Inactivation Efficiency of Bacillus Endospores via Modified Flow-through PUV Treatment with Comparison to Conventional LPUV Treatment." *Journal of Water Process Engineering* *27* (2019): 67-76.
- Gil Pulido, Beatriz & Tarpey, Emma & Almeida, Eduardo & Finnegan, William & Zhan, Xinmin & Dobson, Alan & O' Leary, Niall. (2018). Evaluation of dairy processing wastewater biotreatment in an IASBR system: Aeration rate impacts on performance and microbial ecology. *Biotechnology Reports*. *19*. e00263. 10.1016/j.btre.2018.e00263.
- Leonard, P., Finnegan, W., Barrett, M., & Zhan, X. (2018). Efficient treatment of dairy processing wastewater in a pilot scale Intermittently Aerated Sequencing Batch Reactor (IASBR). *Journal of Dairy Research*, *85*(3), 384-387. doi:10.1017/S0022029918000596
- Leonard, P., Tarpey, E., Finnegan, W., & Zhan, X. (2018). Efficient treatment of dairy processing wastewater in a laboratory scale Intermittently Aerated Sequencing Batch Reactor (IASBR). *Journal of Dairy Research*, *85*(3), 379-383. doi:10.1017/S0022029918000584
- Finnegan, W., Clifford, E., Goggins, J., O'Leary, N., Dobson, A., Rowan, N., Xiao, L., Miao, S., Fitzhenry, K., Leonard, P., . . . Zhan, X. (2018). DairyWater: Striving for sustainability within the dairy processing industry in the Republic of Ireland. *Journal of Dairy Research*, *85*(3), 366-374. doi:10.1017/S0022029918000614
- Fitzhenry, K., Rowan, N., Finnegan, W., Zhan, X., & Clifford, E. (2018). Microbiological characterisation and impact of suspended solids on pathogen removal from wastewaters in dairy processing factories. *Journal of Dairy Research*, *85*(3), 391-395. doi:10.1017/S0022029918000602
- Gil-Pulido, B., Tarpey, E., Finnegan, W., Zhan, X., Dobson, A., & O'Leary, N. (2018). Dominance of the genus *Polaromonas* in the microbial ecology of an Intermittently Aerated Sequencing Batch Reactor (IASBR) treating dairy processing wastewater under varying aeration rates. *Journal of Dairy Research*, *85*(3), 388-390. doi:10.1017/S0022029918000572
- Finnegan, W., Goggins, J., & Zhan, X. (2018). Assessing the environmental impact of the dairy processing industry in the Republic of Ireland. *Journal of Dairy Research*, *85*(3), 396-399. doi:10.1017/S0022029918000559
- C. O'Donoghue, A. Chyzheuskaya, E. Grealis, K. Kilcline, W. Finnegan, J. Goggins, S. Hynes and M. Ryan, 2018. *Measuring GHG Emissions Across the Agri-Food Sector Value Chain: The Development of BIO - a Bio-economy Input-Output Model*.
- W. Finnegan, M. Yan, N. Holden and J. Goggins, 2018. *A review of environmental life cycle assessment studies examining cheese production*. The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment.
- W. Finnegan, J. Goggins, A. Chyzheuskaya, X. Zhan, 2017. *Global warming potential associated with Irish milk powder production*. *Frontiers of Environmental Science & Engineering*
- W. Finnegan, J. Goggins, E. Clifford, X. Zhan, 2017. *Environmental impact of milk powder and butter manufactured in the Republic of Ireland*. *Science of the Total Environment*.
- W. Finnegan, J. Goggins, E. Clifford, X. Zhan, 2015. *Global warming potential associated with dairy products in the Republic of Ireland*. *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

# Acknowledgements

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## Project partners

