

# SOLAR DRIVEN WATER TREATMENT FOR REMOTE AREAS OF DEVELOPING REGIONS

## AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACH USING **SOLAR TECHNOLOGY AND ANODIC OXIDATION**

BSW Off-Grid Power Forum at Intersolar Europe 2015

Florian Benz, CEO AUTARCON GmbH  
Intersolar Europe



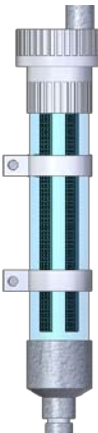
# AUTARCON GmbH – decentralized water treatment

## Fakts

- Spin-off 2010 University of Kassel
- 6 employees
- 30 Units in currently 9 countries:  
Egypt, India, Laos, Ghana, Gambia, Cameroon,...

## Customers

- NGOs and Governmental Institutions
- Disaster relief
  - Pakistan
  - Nepal earth quake prove towers
- Military Institutions
- Research Institutions
- Private



# AUTARCON GmbH - Activities

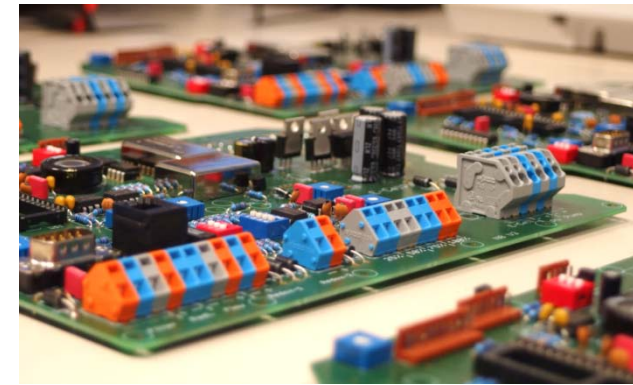
## 1. Drinking water treatment

- Control of Chlorine electrolytic cells
- Residual - Disinfection
- Removal of Arsenic, Iron, Manganese
- Online Monitoring and Quality control
- For up to 3.000 persons per day

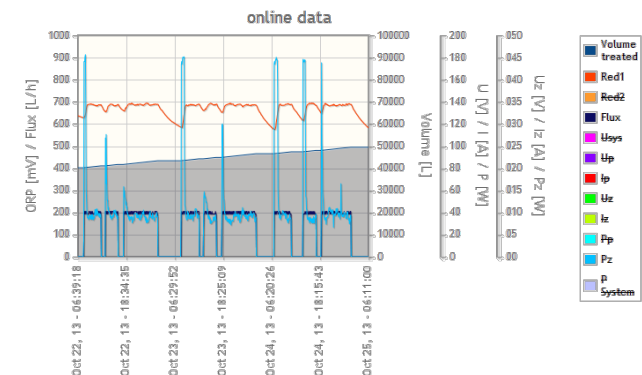


## 2. Wastewater Treatment

- COD and BOD5 reduction + disinfection

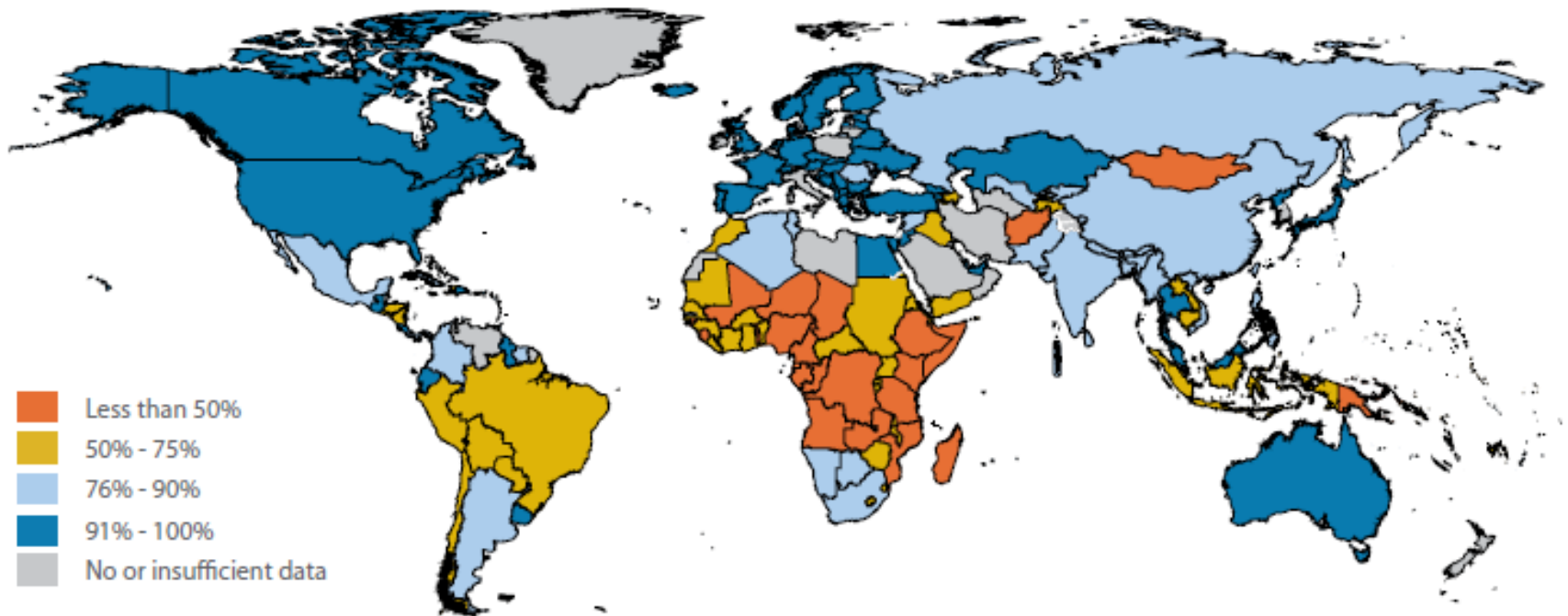


## 3. Load management for optimization of energy efficiency



# Conditions in decentralized drinking water supply

- 900 Million people without access to improved water sources
- 82 % of those live in rural areas (unicef 2010)



# Priorities

“Pathogen removal is of most important concern to assure safe drinking water conditions.”

WHO 2010



Fotos: Waterkiosk Foundation, AUTARCON

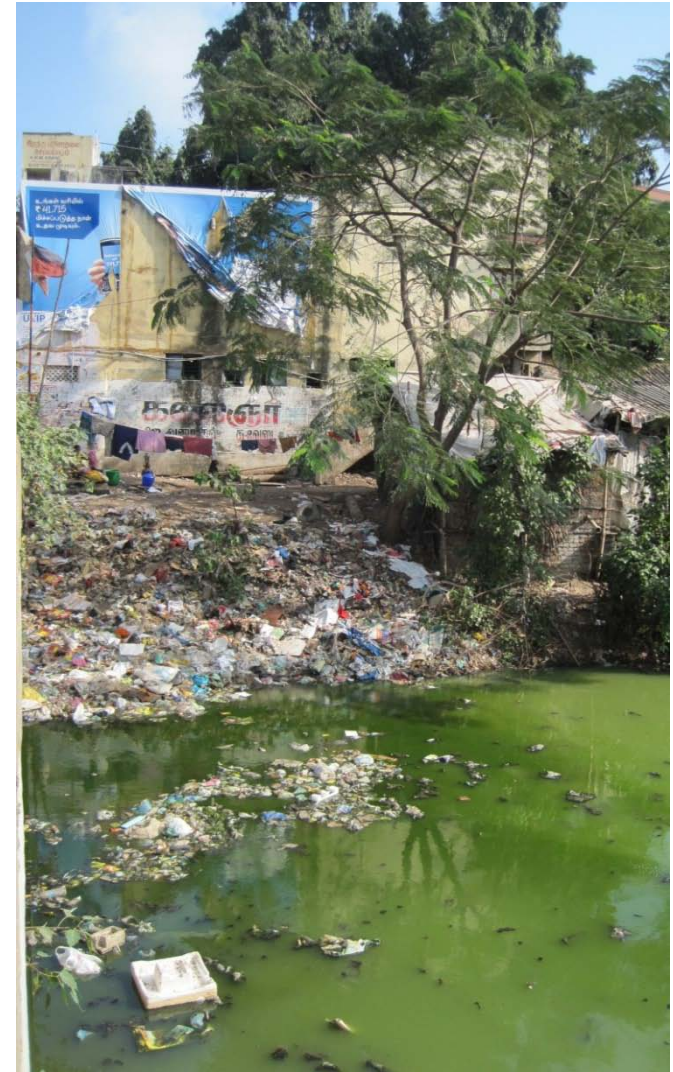
# Water Supply in rural developing regions



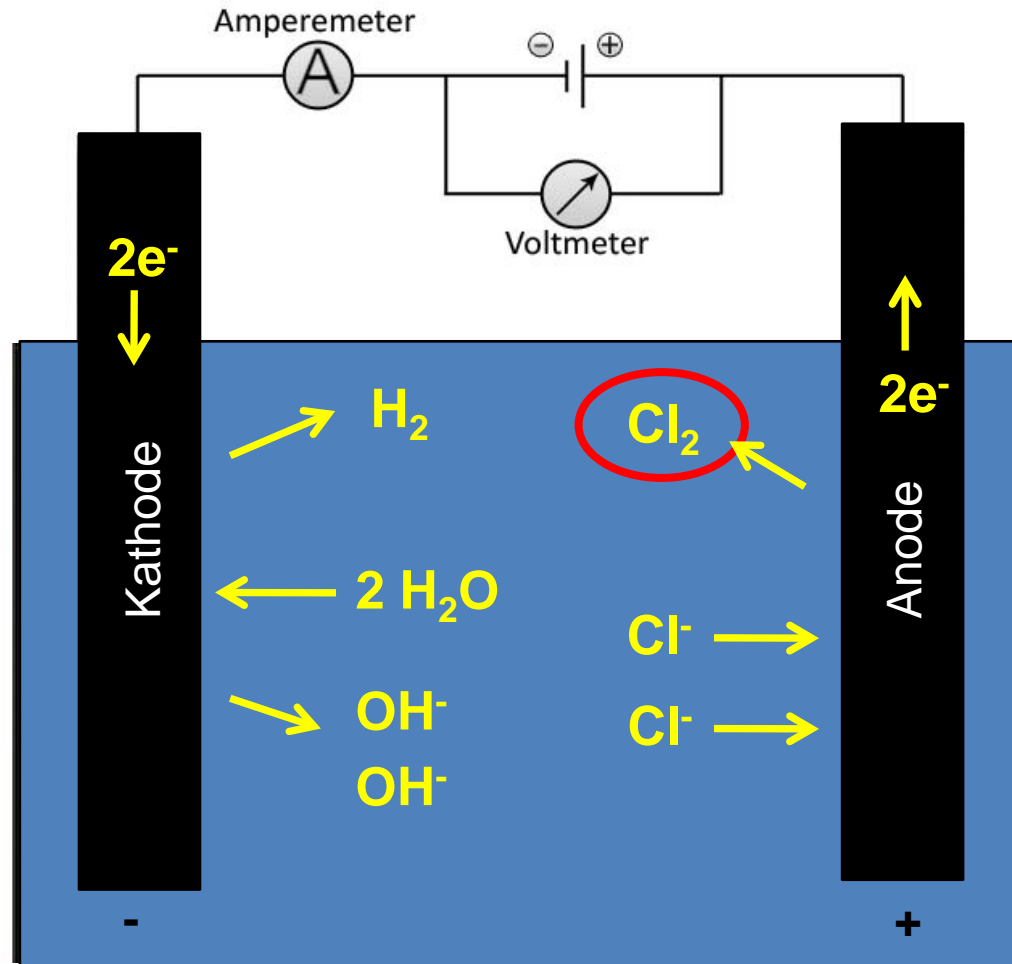
Fotos: Waterkiosk Foundation

# Challenges in off grid water and energy supply

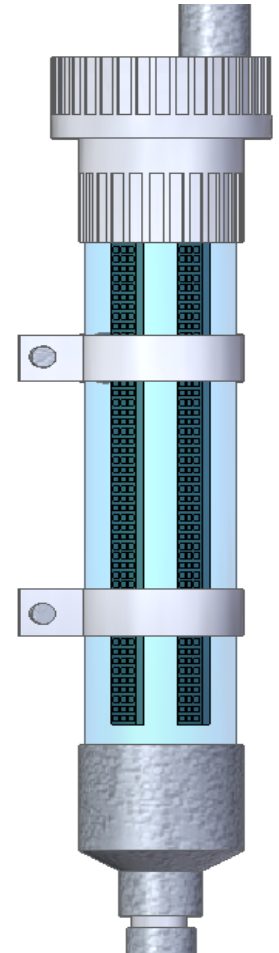
1. Continuous supply of **residual disinfectant** (a must!!)
2. Constant energy supply
3. Simplicity in maintenance
4. Water quality control



# Chlorine production with Anodic Oxidation (AO)



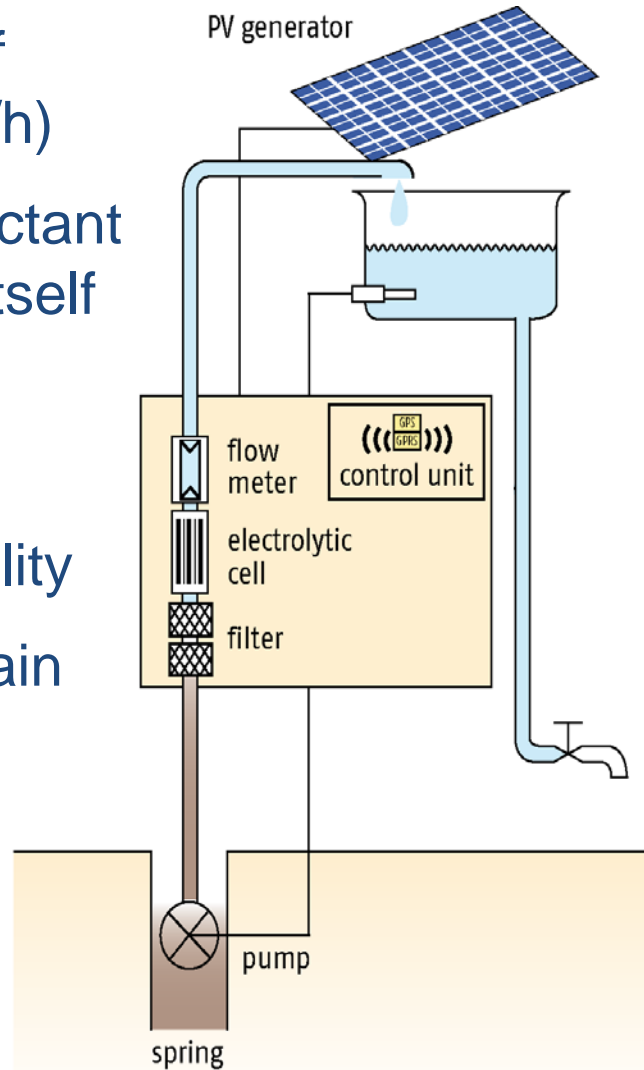
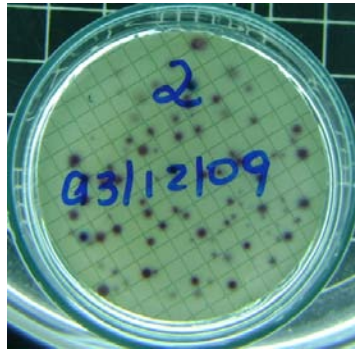
Ersteller: Niko Lang



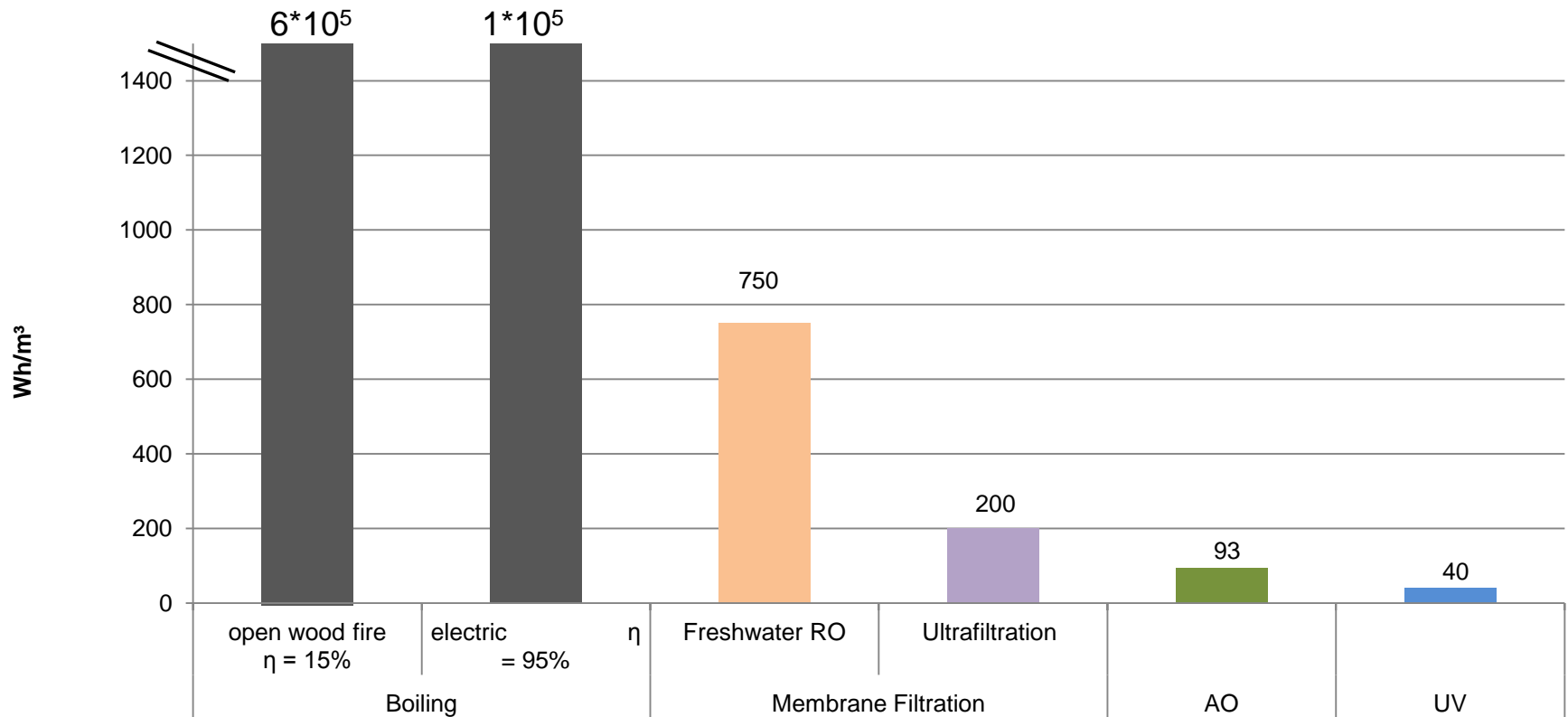


# Our solution – SuMeWa|SYSTEM

1. Highly efficient utilization of solar energy (up to 1000 L/h)
2. Direct production of disinfectant from ions of source water itself
3. Chemical free residual Chlorination
4. Online control of water quality
5. Easy to operate and maintain



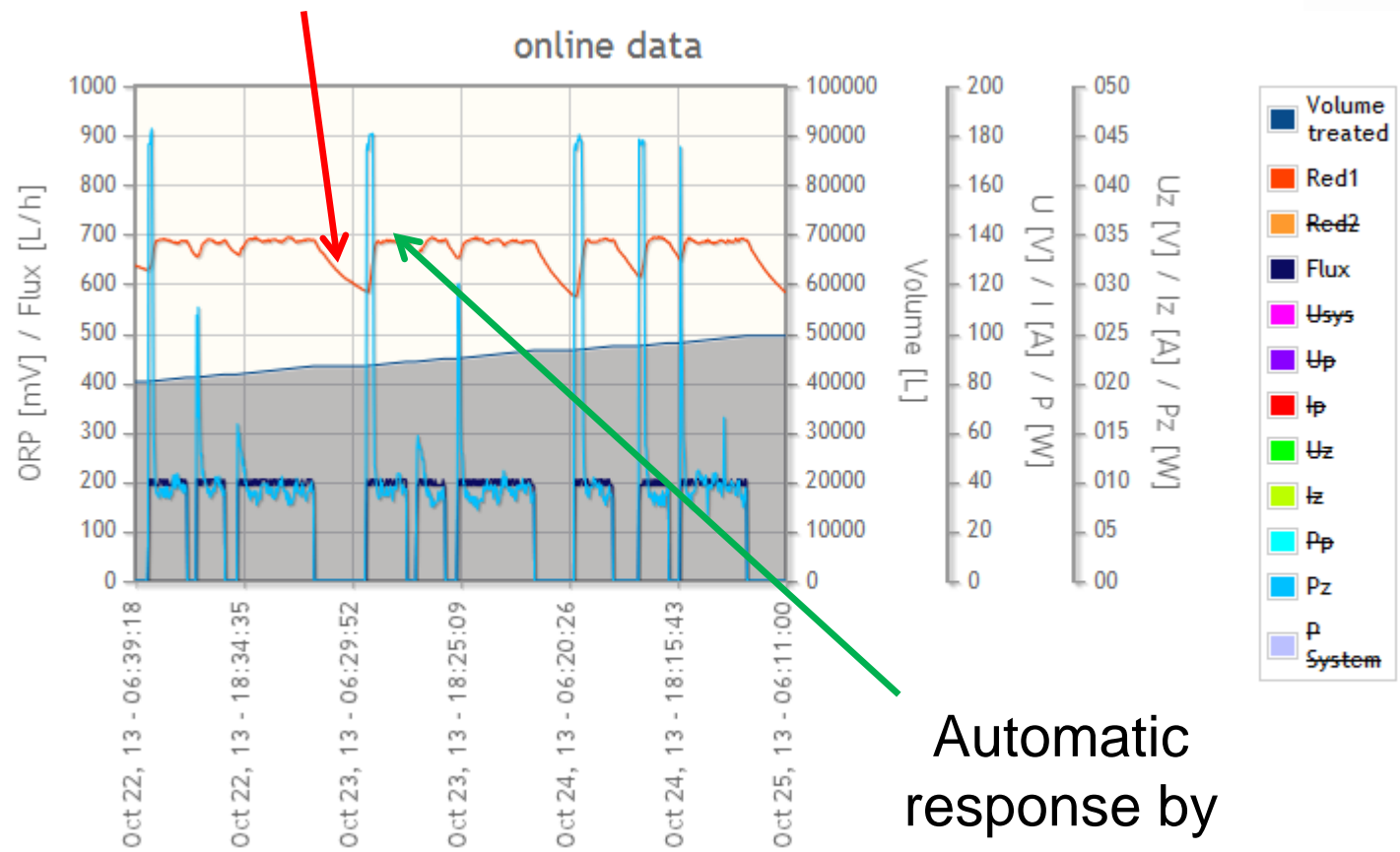
# Comparison of energy requirements for water disinfection



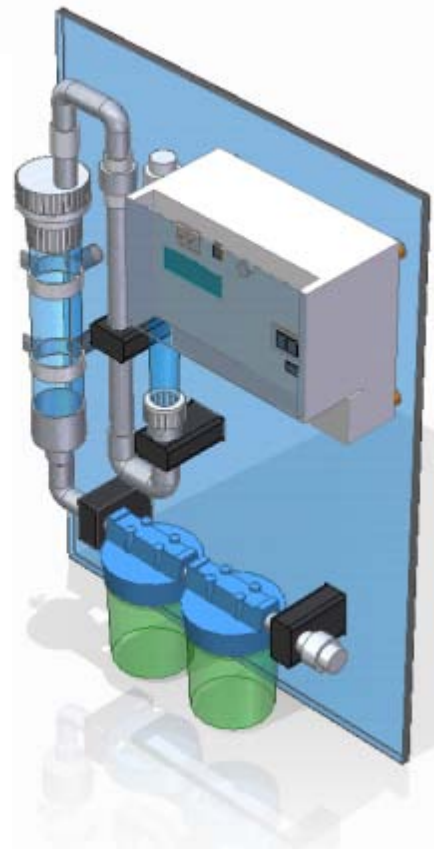
In remote areas relevant for dimensioning of solar PV System  
Example here: Disinfection without pumping and pre- filtration (20h/d Cameroon)

# Online Water Quality Control – Worst Case

Drop of water quality



Automatic response by system



[Link to online monitoring India](#)

# Additional Treatment – Maintenance Free

Removal of:

- Turbidity
- Iron
- Manganese

In the Future:

- Arsenic
- Fluoride



# Additional Treatment – Maintenance Free

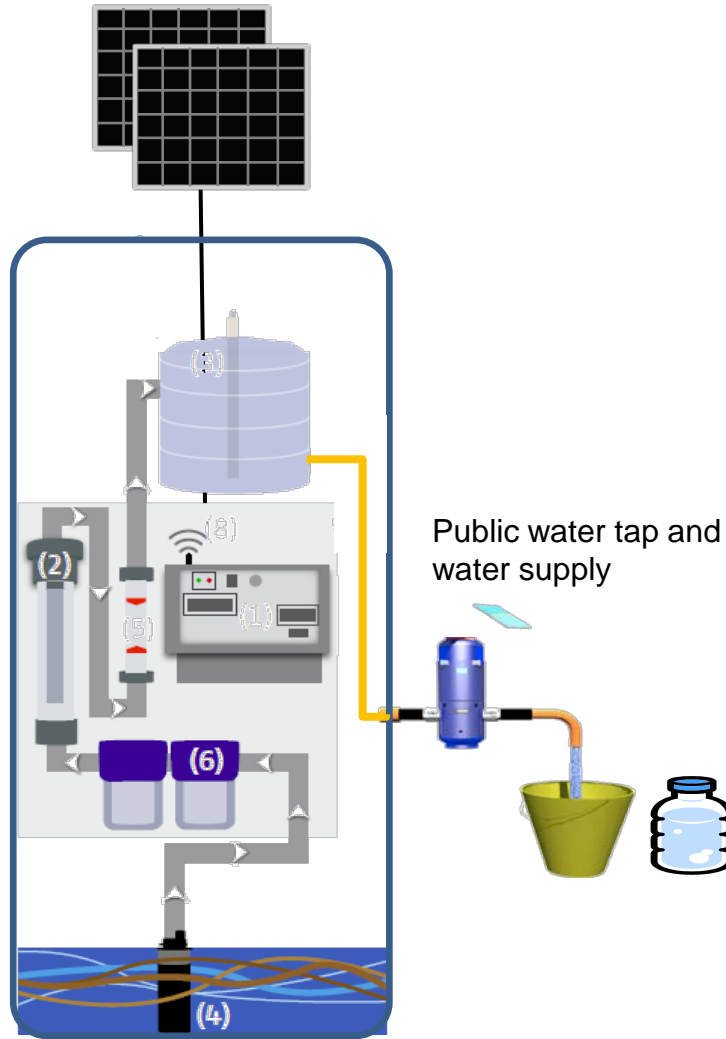


# Comparison of different drinking water treatment technologies

|  | Micro-filtration | Ultra-filtration | Reverse Osmosis | UV        | Thermal treatment | SuMeWa     |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Disinfection efficiency</b>         |                  |                  |                 |           |                   |            |
| <b>Bacteria</b>                        | +                | ++               | ++              | ++        | ++                | ++         |
| <b>Virus</b>                           | -/+              | +                | ++              | ++        | ++                | ++         |
| <b>Protozoa</b>                        | +                | ++               | ++              | -/+       | ++                | ++         |
| <b>Removal of particulate matter</b>   | Yes              | Yes              | Yes             | No        | No                | Yes        |
| <b>Decoloration</b>                    | -                | +/-              | +/-             | -         | -/+               | +          |
| <b>Residual disinfectant</b>           | No               | No               | No              | No        | No                | Yes ✓      |
| <b>Online water quality monitoring</b> | No               | No               | No              | No        | No                | Yes ✓      |
| <b>Ease of use</b>                     | +                | -/+              | --              | -         | ++                | ++         |
| <b>Maintenance requirements</b>        | Medium           | High             | Very High       | High      | Very low          | Very low   |
| <b>Investment cost</b>                 | Medium           | High             | Very high       | High      | Very low          | High       |
| <b>Energy consumption</b>              | Medium           | High             | Very high       | Very low  | Very high         | Very low ✓ |
| <b>Operational costs</b>               | Medium           | Very high        | Very high       | Very high | Very high         | Very low   |

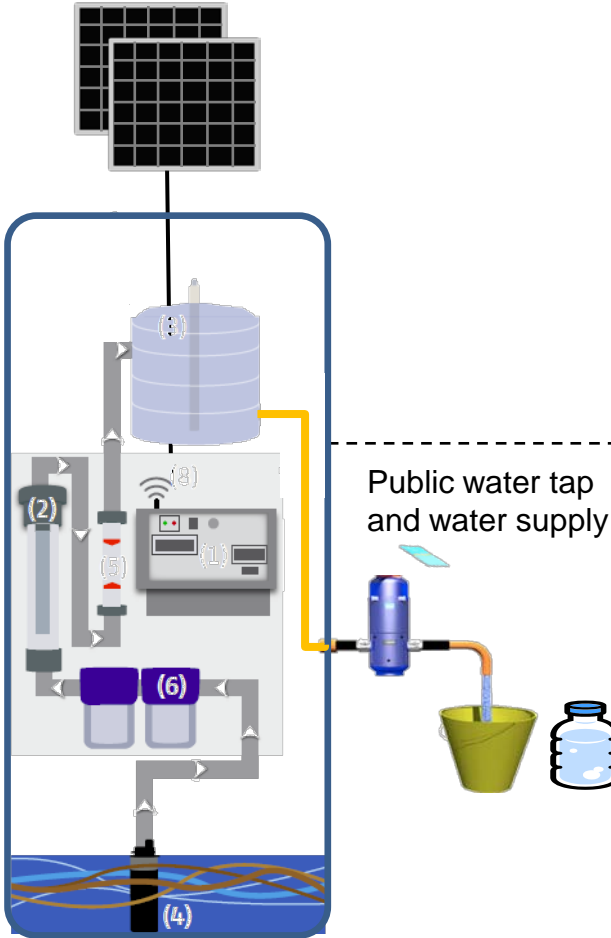
Source: collection of different sources among them WHO 2008, Röske 2006, Loo 2012, and own assumptions

# Business Models – Supply of safe drinking water

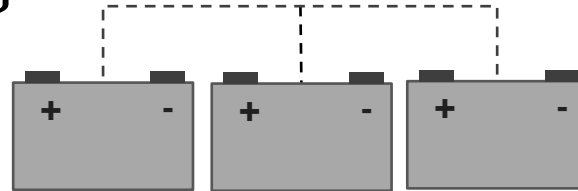
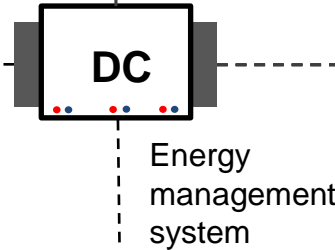
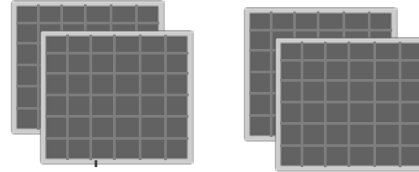


# „Water, Energy and IT Supply Service Center“

## SuMeWa|SYSTEM



## Additional power supply



Power storage

## Energy requiring appliances

Communication Center



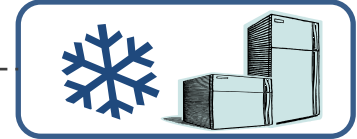
Battery recharge



Electricity supply for nearby houses



Refrigeration



Indiv. / public applications





# Project: Western Desert Egypt



## Oasis

- Groundwater from 700 m
- Very high iron and manganese content
- Power supply only with diesel generators (1h per day)
- Currently 5 units installed
- ~ 500 persons per unit
- Additional 6 units ordered

# Western Desert Egypt



# Examples AUC RISE Egypt



# Installation by local people



# Examples Egypt Western Desert



# Examples Egypt Western Desert



# Training for Maintenance



# Creation of water business





# Creation of water business

- “Local” water supply – delivery 30 km



# Conference Announcement: Solar Energy Solutions for Electricity and Water Supply

Cairo, Egypt, 7. – 10. October 2015

2 Days Conference Programm

2 Days Excursion into Western Desert

## First International Conference on SOLAR ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

October 7 - 10, 2015

This conference aims to showcase and discuss promising approaches and applications for different types of renewable energy as sustainable solutions for rural populations with no access to centralized power and water supply. The focus is on solar electricity and its economic applications for village electrification and the supply of safe drinking water. In addition to photovoltaic solutions, small wind generators as well as small hydro and biogas systems for heat and electricity generation will be discussed.



For over a billion people around the globe, safe drinking water and sustainable energy are unavailable. Despite numerous announcements and ambitious plans by national and international organizations, this situation has improved very little over the past 30 years. During the same timeframe, renewable energies have undergone impressive advancements, both in terms of the development of mature technologies and in their economic competitiveness with fossil fuels. This has given rise to new and more economic applications for rural development.

 THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO  
الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة  
Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment

### Topics

Papers are invited on the following topics:

#### Presentations\*

1. Sustainable systems for the supply of safe drinking water
2. Village electrification systems based on renewable energy
3. Renewable energy for water pumping and irrigation systems
4. Practical examples of renewable energy solutions in rural and urban environments

#### Panel Discussion

- Financing models for the dissemination of solar energy solutions

#### Workshop

- Cooperation of government agencies, NGOs and the private sector in developing renewable rural energy solutions

\*Submit paper abstracts by **June 30** by email to [rise@aucegypt.edu](mailto:rise@aucegypt.edu). Instructions for submission are available at: [www.aucegypt.edu/rise/solarconference](http://www.aucegypt.edu/rise/solarconference)

Abstracts will be reviewed by members of the Conference Advisory Board.

Organized by the Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE), AUTARCON and SolarInput

AUTARCON

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# RED Water Film

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# Questions and Answers

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# SuMeWa|SYSTEM: Examples worldwide

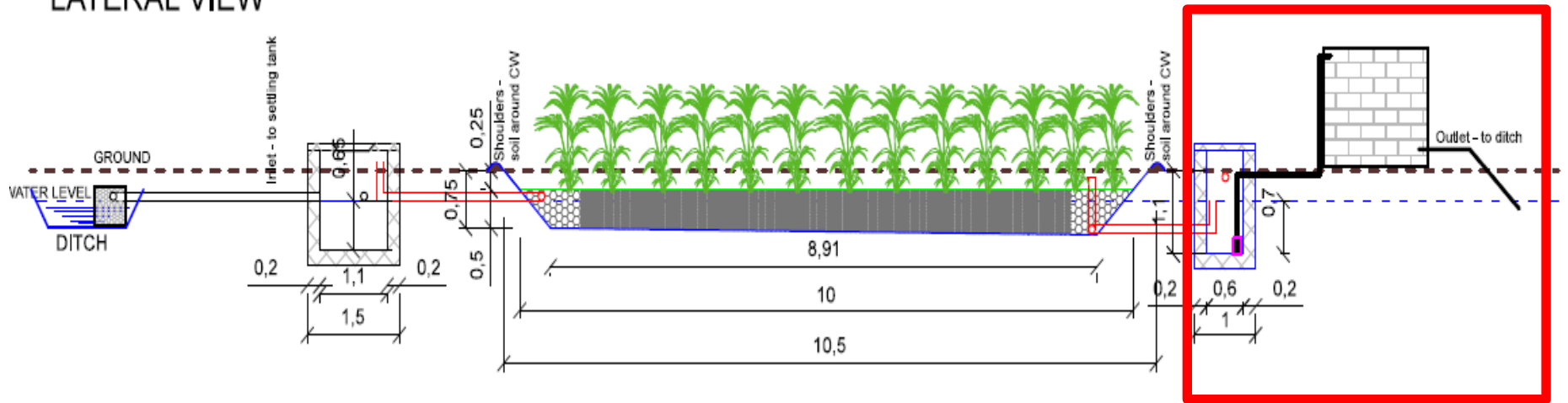
# Examples India: Kalyani University

Setup of bank filtration and solar driven disinfection systems for pond effluent polishing.



# IGNTU, MP: gravel bed effluent polishing

## LATERAL VIEW



# IGNTU, MP: Reedbed Effluent polishing





# Lalpur, MP: water village supply



# Delhi, Pakistan, Gambia, Brazil



# India, Ethiopia, Pakistan



# Areas of Application

## 1. Private sector

## 2. Public water utilities

- Decentralized water treatment
- Water refreshment in storage tanks
- Safe supply of remote villages
- Schools, hospitals, public buildings
- Informal settlements
- Emergency response
- ...



# Core benefits for public water suppliers

## Secure, permanent and safe production of disinfected water

- Compliance with national regulations and standards
- Trustable and reliable drinking water quality
- Very low maintenance and operational costs due to solar energy supply

## Permanent online control of water quality allows

- Reduction of maintenance
- Reduction of water quality control (no chlorine tests needed)
- Constantly proven and recorded safe water supply

## Maintenance on Demand

- No “preventative” maintenance
- Short reaction time in case of malfunction
- Quick recovery of safe system operation



# Core benefits in cases of natural disaster

## Easy installation, quick access to clean water

- Only 40 kg
- Complete equipment in one box 85x65x45 cm
- Easy to transport to disaster location
- Installation time 30 min
- No energy supply required
- Transforms surface water into safe disinfected drinking water
- Permanent online control of water quality

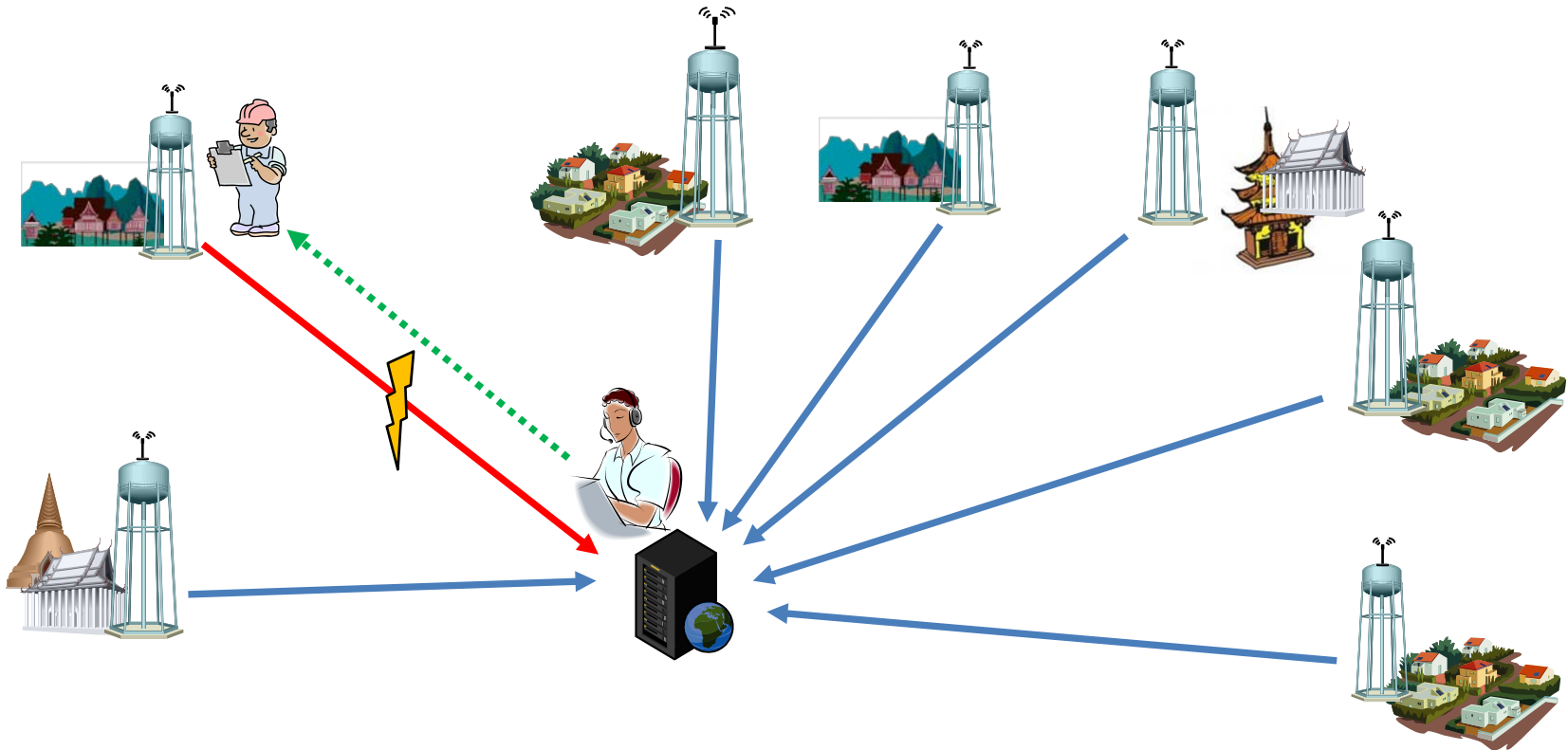


→ Exclusion of drinking water as source for infection

# Remote online monitoring of decentralized water supply

## Efficient operation and maintenance structure

- All parameters are automatic controlled and can be sent online
- Maintenance only required in case of malfunction



# AUTARCON - Innovation durch Erfahrung

Spezialisierung liegt auf der dezentralen

- Ab- und Trinkwasseraufbereitung
- Überwachung der Wasserhygiene
- Solare Energieversorgung

für Entwicklungsregionen

Derzeitige wissenschaftliche Aktivitäten:

- European Union - FP7
  - SWINGS India: Nachhaltige Abwasseraufbereitung und Wiederverwendung
- BMBF KMU Innovativ
  - SolArEx – Solargetriebene Entarsenierung
  - UFCl<sub>2</sub>- Membranfiltration und automatische Reinigung



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



# Legal requirements drinking water supply (excerpt)

| Parameter            | WHO (2008)                   | India (IS 10500-2009) |                  | Germany (TVöD)             | To be reached with SuMeWa |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
|                      |                              | urban                 | rural            |                            |                           |
| <b>Chemical</b>      |                              |                       |                  |                            |                           |
| Residual Chlorine    | ≥ 0.5 mg/L                   | min. 0.2              | 1.0              | 0.3                        | 0.1 – 2.0 mg/L ✓          |
| Turbidity            | 5                            | 1                     | 5                | 1                          | < 1 (Zeolith filter) ✓    |
| TDS/<br>Conductivity | No guideline<br>no guideline | 500 mg/L              | <b>2000 mg/L</b> | No guideline<br>2790 µS/cm | stays constant ✓          |
| Iron                 | No guideline                 | 0.3 mg/L              | 0.3 mg/L         | 0.2 mg/L                   | < 0.1 mg/L ✓              |
| Manganese            | 0.4                          | 0.1                   | 0.3              | 0.05 mg/L                  | < 0.05 mg/L ✓             |
| <b>Biological</b>    |                              |                       |                  |                            |                           |
| E.Coli               | 0                            | 0                     | 0                | 0                          | 0 ✓                       |
| Cryptosporidium      | 0                            | 0                     | 0                | 0                          | 0 ✓                       |