



Aqua Sun International: Solar Water Systems for the World

Family-owned Aqua Sun International is a State of Nevada Chapter S Corporation whose goal is to provide clean, safe drinking water to families in remote locations around the world. The company has agreements with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and is an approved United Nations supplier and US Department of Defense contractor. Aqua Sun provides a variety of systems for emergency relief operations, including some that are designed specifically for brackish water and seawater desalination operations. Other, smaller systems for fresh water applications to assist groups up to 1,000 people are also available. These are deployed in the US capitol complex, Bolivia, Iraq and most countries around the globe. They are also in service with the US Forest Service, FBI, Red Cross, *National Geographic*, Rotary International, UNICEF and many other agencies.

Greg Hanson, the company's owner, has been in the solar business since 1973 and became a Nevada general and solar contractor in 1981. The company installed more than 600 solar hot water systems in the 80s, and during the 80s and early 90s, Hanson started building solar homes. He helped his sister and brother-in-law with the beginning stages of design and formation of PURA Inc., making filtration systems. Hanson did not want to move to PURA's Provo, Utah location; he preferred the solar business. He chose to remain in Nevada and continue building solar homes, all of which found Hanson installing PURA products. "One day in 1991, I was looking at one of the PURA systems and thought to myself, 'if I could put solar energy to that, I could provide cleaner and safer drinking water to families in underdeveloped and developing countries.' That is what we do today and our philosophy has not changed. Our solar-powered water treatment systems have been installed all over the world."

Aqua Sun's Small Village and Town Program

By Denise M. Roberts

has the ability to harness the sun to provide all of the water pumping needs for communities of thousands of people. This program provides stationary solar-powered water purification systems for both the individual home or for centrally located water distribution through water faucets. The company's water filtration and disinfecting systems are simple to use. They are easy to maintain and service in the field and offer the following features:

- Solar photovoltaic electrical producing panels, battery powered or 12-volt DC systems
- Effective water purification with waterborne contaminant removal down to 0.5 microns with carbon block filtration systems
- Effective water purification with disinfection of microorganisms up to 99.999999 percent with a UV disinfecting process
- Portable or stationary, wall- or ground-mount models
- Scaled-size and output capabilities from one to 45 gpm (3.7 to 165 L/m) or more



- Daily water production rates from 100 to 15,000 gpd (370 to 37,000 (L/d) or more

Aqua Sun International also offers a variety of water purification systems that operate off existing electrical service at 110/220 volt, 50 or 60 Hz when available, or most any other main electrical power source. This offers the same basic water purification and disinfection capabilities.

“Early in 1996, the question was how do you market a product that people do not even know exists, especially developing countries,” said Hanson. “Then someone suggested a website and we have been primarily a web-based company ever since. We only sell systems to companies and agencies that install them. Now we are engaged in R&D and close to construction of solar-powered sea and brackish water commercial systems for remote locations. Most of the people who read this magazine are involved in the US and Canadian water treatment industry, supplying systems to people who have electricity and water pressure. We are truly lucky to have those options in our countries; but most places outside our world, when you get out of cities and towns, do not have that luxury. When you deal with this type of clientele, you are constantly being reminded that the people who need cleaner and safer drinking water are the ones least likely to afford it, much like what we see going on Haiti.”

There are plenty of opportunities for company expansion but Hanson wants to keep things small. “We plan on staying a family-owned corporation, we are increasing our sales force to all corners of the world and moving into remote areas with portable and stationary solar-powered desalination systems, as well as our freshwater systems.” As more innovation comes to market, the need for continued research and development is ever



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present in Hanson’s mind, though he does have some reservations. “I’m still not too sure of nanotechnology, but if it works, it could be a real breakthrough. I believe in our case, it would be very good for the industry.” ♦