The ANITA™ Mox processes — MBBR (Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor) and Hybas (Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge) — are single-stage deammonification technologies where greater than 90% of ammonia and 75-85% of total nitrogen can be removed. The processes accomplish this removal without the addition of an external carbon source and with considerably less energy in comparison to conventional nitrification-denitrification.

The ANITA™ Mox process is specially developed for treatment of streams highly loaded in ammonia such as:

- Reject water following anaerobic digestion from municipal WWTP to reduce the nitrogen load on the main wastewater treatment line
- Industrial wastewaters, especially after anaerobic treatment
- Landfill leachates

The MBBR solution for high ammonia waste
The principle of the ANITA™ Mox process

The ANITA™ Mox process is performed in 2 steps: aerobic nitritation and anoxic ammonia oxidation performed by anammox bacteria.

The two steps are taking place in a one-stage biofilm process in different layers of the biofilm: nitritation (aerobic) in the outer layer of the biofilm, anammox (anoxic) in the inner layer.

Specific conditions (pH, temperature, oxygen level) are maintained within the reactor to allow the process specific bacteria to grow as a biofilm on AnoxKaldnes carrier media. All the benefits of proven MBBR technology are applicable to ANITA™ Mox including retention of critical biomass, a stable and robust process and a small footprint.

The IFAS advantage

IFAS (Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge) technology using suspended carriers has been a proven application of the MBBR process for more than 20 years. Applying the same concept to ANITA™ Mox has shown some significant benefits.

As with any IFAS system, suspended growth is retained in the system using a clarifier. With IFAS ANITA™ Mox the nitration step, or the conversion from ammonia to nitrite, takes place in this suspended growth. The production of nitrite has shown to be the limiting step in anammox conversion rates and by moving this step to the suspended phase increases the nitrite production thus providing an overall increase in anammox conversion and the related removal rates.

Benefits include:

- Volumetric Nitrogen removal rates have shown to be 2-2.5 times higher thereby further reducing the footprint
- The operational DO in IFAS ANITA™ Mox is lower than in pure ANITA™ Mox which results in energy savings
- IFAS ANITA™ Mox has been shown to better handle the presence of influent COD
- Lower effluent concentration of ammonia can be targeted

Benefits over conventional ammonia removal

- Compact process
- Almost 60% oxygen savings
- No carbon source needed
- Reduced sludge production
- Robust process
- Stable process
- Lower CO₂ emissions

The ANITA™ Mox process for reject water treatment

High ammonia concentration with low COD concentration are typical characteristics of the reject water coming from centrifugation of the digested sludge. Usually sent back to the main wastewater flow, the treatment of this ammonia load through conventional nitrification/denitrification can be quite cost-intensive.

The use of the ANITA™ Mox process on reject water can reduce dramatically the nitrogen load on the existing biological treatment line. It is also a way to treat a part of the nitrogen at a low energy and chemicals cost. In addition, it allows a reduction of the nitrogen load on the main treatment line and therefore is a solution to upgrade an overloaded existing wastewater treatment plant at a low cost.

A key element of the ANITA™ Mox process: the plastic carriers

A key element of the MBBR technology is the AnoxKaldnes carriers. They are designed to provide a large protected surface area for the biofilm and optimal conditions for biological activity when suspended in water.

Three different types of carriers are best suited for use in the ANITA™ Mox process:

- K3, with a protected surface area of 500 m²/m³
- K5, with a protected surface area of 800 m²/m³
- BiofilmChip™ M, with a protected surface area of 1,200 m²/m³

These carriers of different shapes and sizes provide flexibility to use the most suitable type depending on reject water characteristics and available volumes.
The Biofarm concept: to ensure a quick start-up of new ANITA™ Mox plants

Specific ANITA™ Mox plants will be used as Biofarms where pre-seeded carriers can be harvested to seed the start-up of new ANITA™ Mox plants around the world. A small percentage of carriers used as seed will dramatically reduce the start-up phase from 9-19 months to 2-5 months.

The Biofarm at the Sjölunda WWTP in Malmö Sweden was built internally with a flexible design to allow further development of the ANITA™ Mox process. This Biofarm is designed to facilitate testing of various media, aeration and mixer types. The flexible design provides a unique system for studying different modes or operation, further optimization as well as any new developments

- Medium bubble or fine bubble aeration systems
- Three different types of mixers
- AnoxKaldnes BiofilmChip™ M, K3 or K5 media

In addition to being the first Biofarm this ANITA™ Mox plant was designed to treat up to 200 kg NH4-N/d with 85% total nitrogen removal and 95% ammonia removal.

The plant was started up with the first two reactors in August 2010, and reached full removal capacity in January 2011.