



16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **AQUALINER PATENT COVERAGE SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDS THROUGH THE GRANT OF PATENTS IN THE UK AND 6 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

***2021 is a milestone year for Aqualiner's patent portfolio (excluding licensed patents) as the total issued patents in various countries increases from 1 to 8 with a further 11 applications currently pending***

Aqualiner Limited, a company commercialising a unique trenchless drinking water pipe renewal process, announces that it has received confirmation from UK Patent Office of the grant of its Patent - GB2571127. This Patent covers Aqualiner's unique design necessary to achieve even air flow and temperature as it exits the heated pig. The Company has also filed patent applications for European coverage along with US, Canada, Japan and Australia. These applications remain pending.

In addition, the Company has also received confirmation of the grant of its European Patent – 3519723, covering the unique internal design of the heated Pig that melts the material in the pipe, in France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Ireland and Liechtenstein. Further applications for this patent are pending in US, Australia, Japan, Belgium, Netherlands and Italy.

The Company continues to build its patent portfolio extending its life to 2038 and beyond. Aqualiner was originally granted, by a consortium including Severn Trent Water, Anglian Water and Yorkshire Water, exclusive worldwide rights for the use of patents covering the lining process and related equipment. These patents covered the applications of the original Aqualiner prototype, but additional patent protection has been and is being sought by Aqualiner as the design and applications develop. During 2016, the Company started to make applications for patents covering the new inventions.

“Aqualiner has made a huge financial investment researching and developing our pipe lining technology. Protecting that investment through a deliberate and calculated patent strategy is core to our long-term business plan. We are excited about the grant of these patents as they significantly extend the life and coverage of our intellectual property portfolio.” stated Archie Adams, Aqualiner's Managing Director, who added, “The Company now has patents with a longer life than when Aqualiner was originally formed. Aqualiner's ownership of intellectual property is critical to obtaining competitive advantage along with corporate value and strengthening licensing terms.”

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## **About Aqualiner's MIPP (Melt in Place Pipe) Process**

Aqualiner's MIPP is a reinforced thermoplastic liner formed within an aging pipe by the application of heat and pressure to a woven fabric tube made of co-mingled polypropylene and glass fibres. Heat supplied from an electrically powered air driven heating pig raises the temperature of the fabric to above 200°C, the thermoplastic melts around the oriented glass fibres and pressure is applied using a removable silicon inversion bag to position and consolidate the composite liner tightly against the host pipe wall. It is melted and consolidated to form a thin high strength liner able to perform as a stand-alone AWWA Class 4 liner, a fully structural replacement for the existing pipe, rapidly installed with a minimum of excavation. It is a simple process meeting the requirements prescribed by the stakeholders. Aqualiner has UK & US Regulatory approval for installation in drinking water pipes. In February 2021, Aqualiner successfully completes the world's first live drinking water installation of its unique fully-structural pipe lining with Severn Trent Water in a 9" cast iron distribution water pipe.

## **About Aqualiner Limited**

Globally, water utility companies are losing, on average, 20% of their drinking water through leaks. Stakeholders, regulators and politicians are demanding a move to a permanent reduction in water loss. The lack of an effective solution has led to this situation and the industry is now facing growing compulsion to renew their aged pipes and meet the onerous regulatory leakage targets. Aqualiner has a unique solution that forms a thin-walled pipe inside the existing pipe without the need to dig up the pipe. As opposed to existing pipe replacement methods, it is up to 50% cheaper, 10 times faster and provides a replacement pipe that has virtually the same capability as the original pipe in the ground. The process has significant added environmental benefit as there are no chemicals involved in the installation while also having a low carbon footprint. On current projections, the global water industry needs to renew annually over 50,000 km of pipe to match the ongoing deterioration of their existing pipe networks. Aqualiner is gearing up to produce, for global utility contractors, commercial equipment and materials for its water mains rehabilitation process. The Company is now well positioned to produce a significant return for not only the water companies but also for its shareholders.

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