



313 Pier Street
Perth WA 6000

PO Box 1325
SOUTH PERTH WA 6951

Ph: +61 8 9368 2988
Fax: +61 8 9476 6184

ACN: 001 287 510

Optum advises that it is receiving significant industry interest in the patented **MEP** ("Marine Environmental Partners") **MariSan™** water treatment and recycling system following preliminary overtures to the market of its revolutionary technology.

This mirrors that of MEP in the United States where the Company is experiencing a rapid growth in sales and quote enquiries.

The **MEP MariSan™** system utilises a multi-process electro-chemical technology to treat, disinfect and sanitise all grades of waste waters.

The system has been shown to meet the most stringent of environmental regulations without the need for chemical additives, traditional biological processes or costly high maintenance membranes. Unlike a bioreactor or membrane system **MEP MariSan™** is unaffected by chlorines, saltwater or other contaminants and is extremely cost efficient to operate and maintain.

The first system due for Australia is currently being built at MEP's Genoa, Italy, facility.

Originally developed for the marine industry and in particular for the treatment of ballast waters from cargo, cruise and naval ships, the system has extensive applications for both land and sea based installations.

The size and scope of the market for the **MEP MariSan™** systems is extremely large. The International Maritime Organisation ("IMO"), an agency of the United Nations, estimates that the ballast water treatment market alone will approximate \$3 billion over the next 5 years. By including the treatment of other shipboard waste waters (bilge, galley, sewage, laundry etc) and especially land based industrial applications the market potential becomes immeasurably larger.

MEP and the **MariSan™** technology are fast gaining international recognition and endorsements. The Company has been selected as one of the three finalists for "The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal". The prize, sponsored by the British Government and given by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology is awarded for the process or technology, developed in the past ten years, which best protects the marine environment.

MEP was also named as a finalist for the 2003 Seatrade Award for the Protector of the Marine and Atmospheric Environment.