

# PAPER TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

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## PITA PAPER *matters!* 2018 Conference & Exhibition at Lancaster University

Improved Mill Performance and Wastewater Treatment  
with new COD Monitoring Technology  
Mark Whatton (QCL Scientific)

# PAPERmatters 2018!

## The Presentations

### Mark Whatton

QCL Scientific



Mark Whatton is the Technical Projects Manager at QuadraChem Laboratories Ltd, an analytical instrumentation company, and part of the executive team. The role encompasses direct customer project management within a multitude of industries as well as international business development. He is also a member of European projects SYMPHONY and the Horizon 2020 project MOLOKO as Work Package Leader, Exploitation Manager and Member of the General Assembly. Specialised technical knowledge includes instrument calibration techniques, chemometrics and measurement of uncertainty. Previous roles include a Development Chemist at Johnson Matthey Plc in the field of heterogeneous catalysis and specialised coatings development and PhD studies in air sensitive inorganic phosphorus synthesis chemistry.



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**QCL**

## Improved Mill Performance and Wastewater Treatment with new COD Monitoring Technology

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A photograph of a compact, white and green laboratory instrument, identified as a MANTECH COD monitoring device. It features a small screen and several buttons on its front panel.

## Acknowledgements

**QCL**

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- Serge Genest, Brian O'Connor, **FPInnovations, Canada**



A row of logos for the organizations acknowledged in the presentation. From left to right: MANTECH (green swirl logo), University of Saskatchewan (red crest logo), DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (black crest logo), VTT (blue stylized logo), FPInnovations (green circular logo), ARAUCO (green tree logo with tagline 'Sembremos Futuro.'), NRC-IRAP (black stylized logo), PORT HAWKESBURY PAPER (blue logo with paper roll image), and kemira (blue logo).

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## COD - Chemical Oxygen Demand



- COD is the amount of oxygen required to fully oxidize organic matter
  - Used as a measurement of the oxygen-depletion capacity of a sample contaminated with organic waste
- COD is significant to the bleaching process
  - Impacts the required chemical dosage used for pulp bleaching
- High COD = greater consumption of chemicals
  - Excess bleaching chemicals added to the process to compensate

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## Pulp and Paper Mills - COD

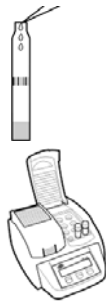


- At mills the impact of dissolved organics can have a large influence
  - Cost and performance especially when targeting aggressive discharge targets
- Reasons for reducing water usage
  - Costs
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Environmental performance
  - Security of supply
- Here to present summary of recent international work on **novel rapid COD method** and use with new water treatment technologies and methods at various stages of the pulp and paper wastewater treatment processes

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## Traditional Dichromate COD Method

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- Hazardous chemicals used
- Concentrated Acid, **Potassium Dichromate & Mercury**
- Heat chemicals to 150°C
- 2-3 hour process
- Lab based only
  - COD<sub>Cr</sub>

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## PeCOD<sup>®</sup> Method

QCL

- Results in less than **15 minutes**
  - final effluent in <7 minutes
- A patented technology that measures COD by oxidising organic matter by **photoelectric method**
- PeCOD eliminates the use of **mercury and potassium dichromate**
- **Safe** for both the environment and the analyst
- **Accurate** method with a detection limit of 0.7 mg/L, and upper range of 15,000 mg/L
- Allows for direct feedback
  - “Turn the Dial” response



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## PeCOD<sup>®</sup> COD Analyser Components QCL

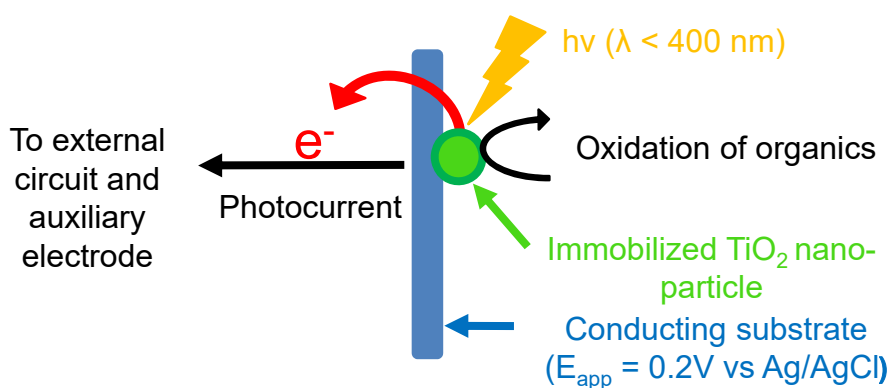


- Consumable Items:
  - Calibrant Solution - COD Standard
  - Electrolyte (for dilution)
  - Nano Sensor



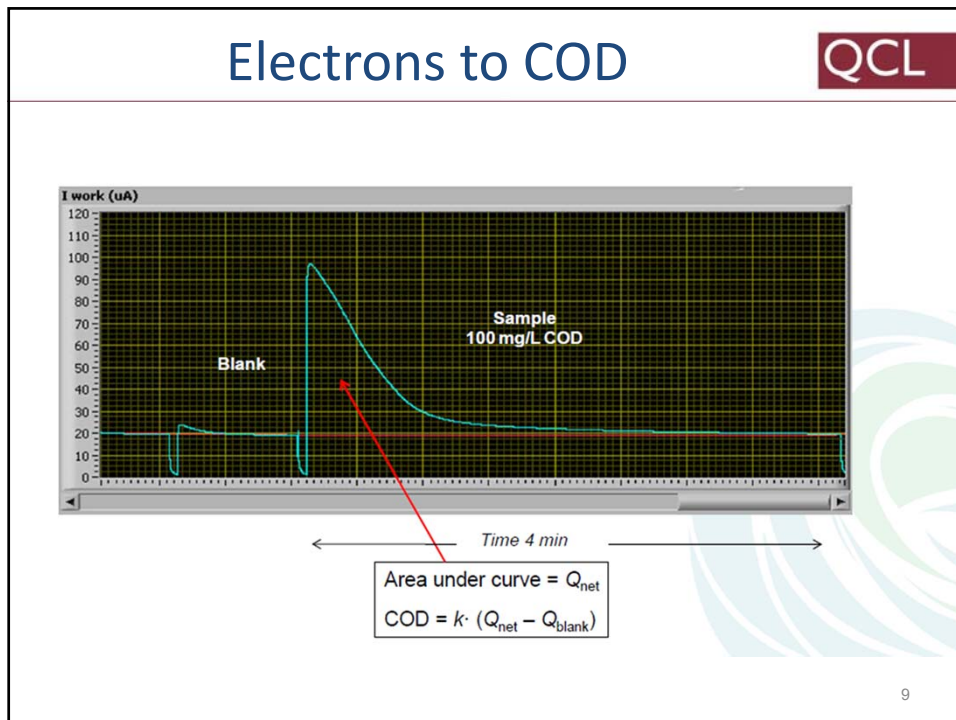
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## A Nanotechnology Based Approach QCL



Roughly 2 times the oxidizing power vs. dichromate  
*i.e.* Benzene: 1.8 by COD<sub>Cr</sub> and 2.6 by PeCOD<sup>®</sup>

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## Case Study






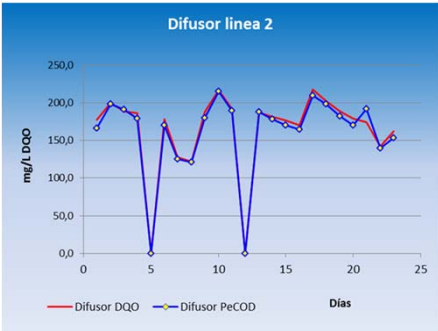


- Chilean Mill
- Global company that produces many types of wood products
- Previously using SCAN-C 45:00 COD method
- Total 7hr test time meant deficiencies and improper dosing
- PeCOD allows operators to respond to events

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## Chilean Mill's Findings





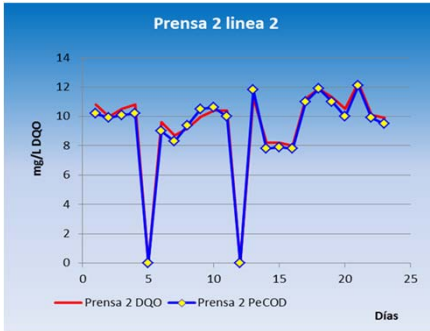


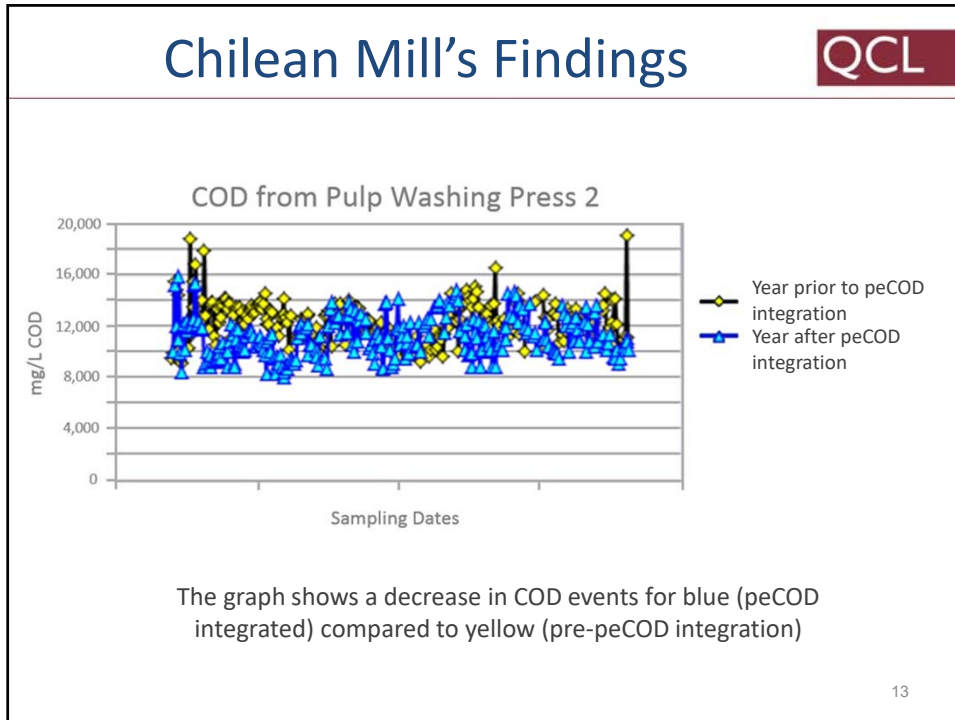
Figure 1: peCOD (blue) versus traditional method (red) for COD analysis at Diffusor Line 2.

Figure 2: peCOD (blue) versus traditional method (red) for COD analysis at Press 2, Line 2.

Validated the PeCOD with respect to the standard SCAN method

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## Chilean Mill's Summary QCL

- Safety:
  - Decreased risk from significant to tolerable
  - Improved health and safety for workers
- Environment:
  - Reduced contamination to the effluent
  - Eliminated hazardous waste, generated using the traditional COD method
- Savings:
  - COD analysis time reduced by 95%
  - Consumption of chemical reagents for COD analysis decreased by 66.4%
  - Also results in lower organics in waste water plant and further reductions in chemical and energy used
  - Total savings over 12 months were **\$3 million dollars**

National award for improving Sustainability Health & Safety, and Profit

They now have 5 PeCOD units in 2 mills

Engineers can ALWAYS have a result within 15 min, sampling from any point

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## Industrial & Municipal



- Feb. 2016 Ontario approved peCOD method for use with domestic and surface waters
  - Replaces the standard dichromate methods E3170 and E3246 in Ontario
- Actual cost per sample compared to dichromate
  - Can be 50% less
  - Includes hazardous waste disposal for dichromate
- Major benefits in faster, more frequent sampling:
  - Real time incoming load monitoring
  - Quick and simple investigations for discharge
- Wide range of case studies
  - Municipal, Brewing, Wastewater treatment, Aluminium Manufacturing, etc.

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## CORECOD Project

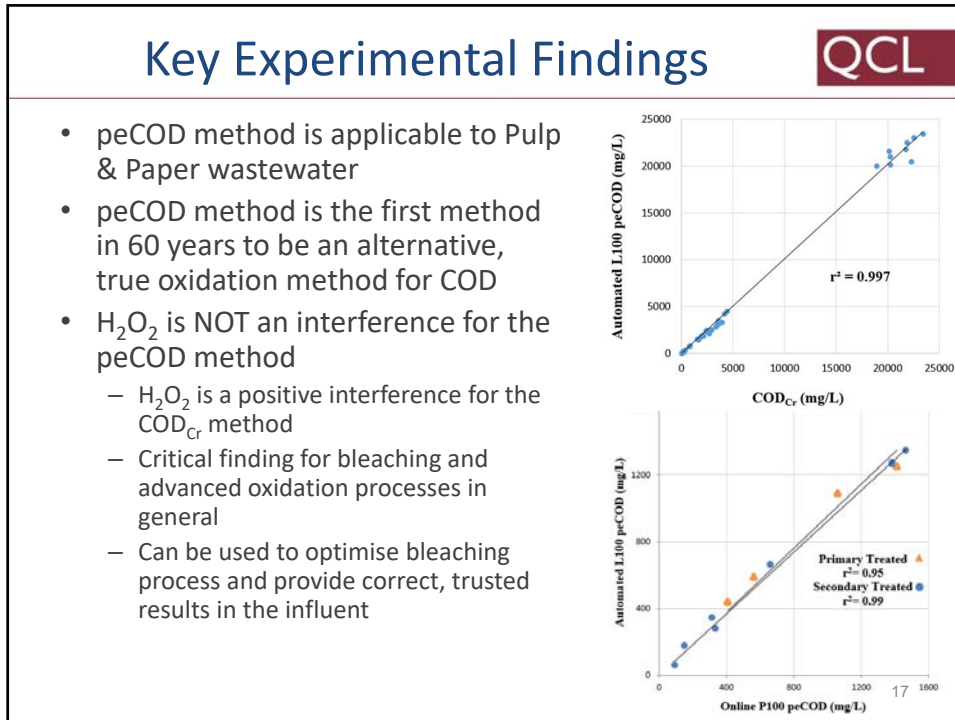


Joint Finland  
and Canada  
Project


- Novel concepts for Recalcitrant COD reduction in Pulp and Paper industry
- PeCOD chosen as the COD testing solution as **rapid** test results with **true COD** method required
  - Not selected COD<sub>Cr</sub>, TOC, UV254
- A comparison of methods for many different effluents from kraft and mechanical pulp mills.

Primary Kraft: 3 mills, 8 effluents  
 Primary Kraft spiked with condensate or weak black liquor: 5 of each  
 Secondary Kraft: 4 mills, 10 effluents  
 Primary Mechanical: 1 mill, 4 effluents  
 Secondary Mechanical: 3 mills, 9 effluents

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## CORECOD Project Outcome Utilisation 2



**COD<sub>Cr</sub>**

- Laboratory, PPE, 8hrs/day, 5 days/week
- Operators operating “blind” at other times

**PeCOD® Analyser**

- In plant, 24/7
- Operators do the analysis and get COD when they want and need it
- From paper machines, bleaching control, wastewater treatment optimization, nutrient control and effluent compliance
- Used in both laboratory and plant environments

Matrix Specific Alternate COD Method Approval by PeCOD  
Adoption in Multiple Countries Including Finland

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## Opportunity for Pulp & Paper Mills

- Begin with PeCOD in Laboratory Operations
- Improve health and safety for everyone
- Rapid COD results delivered to operational engineers
- Impactful decisions made from fast COD results increases profit

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