



Mark van Loosdrecht

Professor in Environmental Biotechnology at Delft University of Technology



Mark van Loosdrecht is Professor in Environmental Biotechnology at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands. He graduated (MSc and PhD) from Wageningen University. His PhD topic was a combination of microbiology and colloid chemistry. He was appointed at Delft in 1988 and became full professor in 1998. His research is characterized by the combination of scientific understanding of complex systems and development of new processes. Dr. van Loosdrecht's scientific interests are mainly related to biofilm processes, nutrient conversion processes and the role of storage polymers in microbial ecology. In particular, he is interested in new processes related to wastewater treatment and resource recovery. His research has resulted in several processes currently applied on full scale such as the Sharon process, Anammox process and Nereda process. He was awarded the Spinoza Award, Simon Stevin Award and the Singapore and Stockholm water prizes. He has published over 750 scientific papers, has 20 patents and has supervised over 50 PhD students. In recent years, Mark and his team have successfully developed a technology that allows for recovery of polymers from aerobic granular sludge. The polymer, named Kaumera, is a substance with unique characteristics and potentially high-quality applications, like an adhesive in a fertiliser pellet or composite materials. The first full-scale Kaumera recovery plant is currently constructed.