



They now call Adelaide home

Meet Matt Politzi and Edrich VanTonder, two of Osmoflo's international employees.

Skilled practitioners in the water industry, both were encouraged to move to Adelaide from overseas as part of the company's push to lead a vibrant, home grown and owned desalination industry.

Matt was recruited from the British Virgin Islands, a chain in the Caribbean that was once the haunt of notorious pirates including the infamous Blackbeard.

Today this small country of 22,000 people is a mini centre of excellence in desalination.

"Opportunities for progress were being stunted by the lack of fresh water, so desalination was an obvious way to go. The need to overcome high energy costs led to extensive research into sea water reverse osmosis research and the development of some of the best energy recovery technologies used in water desalination today," explains Matt who moved from New York to the Virgin Islands in 1992.

Watching from afar the effect of continuing drought in Australia, Matt concluded that this country would be the next frontier pushing the bounds of desalination technology and decided he wanted to play a role in the development of the industry here.

Through networking he discovered that Osmoflo in Adelaide was the place to be so he wrote to Marc Fabig, Osmoflo's Managing Director. Before long, he was on a plane to South Australia and his new job as a project specialist working on plant development and design.

As to his new lifestyle?

"My wife, son and I quickly transitioned to Adelaide's laid back urban environment from the island lifestyle we enjoyed for more than 15 years. The initial reason for coming here was professional growth but personal happiness is why we want to stay!"

According to Edrich, Adelaide chose him rather than the other way around.

He and his wife Laetitia previously lived in Pretoria, capital of South Africa. Disheartened by the political uncertainties and crime in their native land they wanted to emigrate.

Edrich attended a job expo in Johannesburg in which Osmoflo was participating and an initial meeting there led to him being offered a position as a project engineer in Adelaide.

"Adelaide probably wasn't our first choice, but the opportunity came along and now we are really enjoying the lifestyle. Only downside is the weather which is so changeable, however I am sure we will acclimatise," he says.

"For a local desalination industry to be successful we need global skills. That's why we energetically pursue a policy of attracting the right people from all corners of the globe. Already we have employees from some 20 countries. All are making a highly valuable contribution to the company and their new homeland," says Marc Fabig, Osmoflo's Managing Director.

Osmoflo, which has 120 employees and supports a further 50 people in contracting roles is currently seeking to fill an additional 30 positions including a number of senior management roles.

World class desalination