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## ▶ CLIENT OVERVIEW

L'Oréal, the world leader in cosmetics, is synonymous with beauty, innovation and scientific excellence in more than 130 countries around the world.

Their factory in Pontyclun, South Wales, UK is a L'Oréal 'Centre of Excellence' for shampoos, conditioners and hair styling products and has been since the group's move to specialise production across its European factories. This site is certified ISO 9002, OHSAS 18001 & ISO 14001.

## ▶ CLIENT'S REQUIREMENTS

At the site, continued efforts are made to reduce waste and conserve energy. The factory now recycles and/or reuses over 75% of all waste generated at the plant. This dramatic improvement in recent years has come about as a result of a group desire to minimise the use of landfill for waste disposal. Plastic, polythene, wood, steel and cardboard are now being re-used and/or recycled, with a large proportion being re-used by site suppliers.

L'Oréal had to replace their existing effluent treatment plant to keep pace with the site's expansion of its manufacturing capability. In doing so they wanted a process that would not only provide them with operational savings but would also produce an effluent that was significantly better than their current discharge consent, following their company environmental objectives and targets for continual improvement. With VWIO, L'Oréal has put the operation and maintenance responsibility of its effluent treatment plant into the hands of an experienced operator, allowing management to concentrate on its core business.

## ▶ OUR SOLUTION

VWIO offered an aerobic effluent treatment plant capable of providing L'Oréal with flexibility to meet future site developments and demands.

The system included the following features:

- Activated sludge process suitable for the reduction of COD and BOD in effluents arising from the manufacture of a diverse range of cosmetic products.
- Removal of 'light' sludges by means of a post aeration clarifier, increasing the improvement in the discharge quality.
- Full turnkey installation and takeover of part of the existing plant.
- Operation and maintenance of the plant over a minimum 5 year service period.
- Release of L'Oréal management team from non-core functions.

This project is in line with L'Oréal's environmental objectives and targets to minimise waste, which reduces their impact on the local community's resources.

Since operation began discharge consent levels have been achieved on a continual basis whilst treating technically exacting effluent.

VWIO's solution provides L'Oréal with a plant giving predictability of costs to a previously unpredictable but critical utility.

■ In VWIO, L'Oréal has a partner with the capability of undertaking other water and wastewater related projects on site and at other locations around the world. ■