

EVOLUTION AQUA GROUP OPEN CELL MEDIA

Cranfield University Test Report

Cranfield UNIVERSITY

Comparative performance study of EAG Open Cell Media and conventional sand filtration







Executive Summary

The aim of the project has been defined to **evaluate** and **investigate** the performance of a new filter media known as **Evolution Aqua Group Open Cell Media** against conventional sand filters used in swimming pools.

Identical experimental rigs for sand and EAG Open Cell Media filters were assembled for comparing the **effectiveness** and **efficiency** of the filters against one another.

EAG Open Cell Media achieved the target NTU value by consuming **considerably less energy** while operating at **lower pressure** and **constant flow-rate** than sand filtration.

In conclusion, the EAG Open Cell Media has been found to be as effective as sand filtration in filtering swimming pool water whilst being more cost effective in terms of its power consumption and more reliable in terms of its flow rate.

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TEST SET-UP



Photographs showing set-up layout





TEST SET-UP



3D representation of the experimental setup



Piping layout and flow direction of each filtration system

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INSTRUMENTATION AND PROCEDURE

Power Consumption monitoring devices

Two identical power consumption meters were plugged into the mains upstream of the adjustable speed pumps for monitoring the pump's power usage.

Pressure Measurement

For monitoring pressure of the filtration system, a pressure gauge was installed on top of each filtration vessel. At the point of sampling water from each tank, pressure values of each tank were logged by using the installed pressure gauges.



Pressure gauge mounted on top of the filtration vessel

Flow-rate Measurement

In-line floating flow meters were installed on the downstream line of the filters, which carry filtered water back to the water tank. Similar to pressure readings, flow-rate values were logged every time a water sample was taken to measure NTU values.



Floating flow-meter installed downstream of the filters

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TEST RESULTS

Figures 10 and 11 represent the power consumption and system's pressure respectively. The increase in power consumption by sand filter can be attributed to the gradual increase in pump's speed in order to maintain a constant flow-rate.



Figure 10





TEST RESULTS (cont.)



Figure 11





TEST RESULTS

The main conclusions from conducted tests can be summarised as follows:

- EAG Open Cell Media proved to be **as effective as traditional sand** in reaching a target NTU value of 0.5.
- EAG Open Cell Media has shown far greater capacity for filtering debris compared to traditional sand. In scenarios that cause the sand filter to block in seconds due to the heavy debris load, EAG Open Cell Media continues to filter without a noticeable change in the system's pressure or flow-rate. This signifies an advantage of EAG Open Cell Media over sand as it requires backwashing less frequently.
- In terms of power consumption, EAG Open Cell Media consumes **considerably less power** for delivering the same filtration performance in comparison to traditional sand.
- The EAG Open Cell Media exhibited **constant pressure** and **flow-rate** throughout the testing period whereas traditional sand did not.

To sum up, by using EAG Open Cell Media, one can expect a significant reduction in the power consumption of the system as well as greater capacity in filtering, while operating at a steady pressure and flow-rate.





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