



Confidence is what's been sustaining Adelaide businessman, Paul Pearce for the past few years in his promotion of a local invention he believes is not only valuable to Australia's viticulturalists but will have widespread agricultural and industrial applications.

Paul is director of Hydrosmart International, a company formed to promote, sell and distribute Hydrosmart : " a new and innovative technology that uses some of the latest advances in particle physics research to provide effective, affordable and chemical free solutions to the problems caused by minerals and chemicals that are present in our water supply."

That quote comes from the Hydrosmart web site-[www.hydrosmart.com.au](http://www.hydrosmart.com.au)-which abounds with testimonials about the product, including several from happy vignerons who have found it to have a range of benefits, the most significant being the successful treatment of mineral build-up in irrigation systems. Basically, hydrosmart is a computer system that generates "specific resonance frequencies" that break down the molecular structure of the mineral crystals in water that cause problems such as scale.

Paul says that not only does it remove the problem of mineral deposits from any system using water -it also remediates soils and improves crop health. There are even reports that its use increases the brix in grapes!

The science behind it is a little "out there" as far as the relevant mainstream knowledge base is

concerned and that's why Paul's infallible confidence has been so critical.

"Yes we've been pooh-poohed over the years and likened to snake-oil merchants", he agrees. "But we have seen over and over again that the product actually works and we're now starting to rise above the radar and people are starting to sit up and take notice."

Anecdotally there are many accounts the invention works and Hydrosmart is now servicing a variety of clients to arrange a purpose. For example, the water used to green Adelaide Oval, fill the swimming pools of some Hyatt hotels and irrigate more than 25 South Australian vineyards ( including those of d'Arenberg, Geoff Hardy and Grant Burge ) is now being treated by Hydrosmart.

But, to date, though some scientific assessment has been made, but more needs to be carried out on salinity and algae remediation. So confident is Paul in the product, which is turning around saline irrigation, that he's been the one lobbying artist, so far with little success, to stimulate government research organisations to conduct thorough assessments of the technology.

If it really is proved to work beyond any scientific doubt then the best news is it could provide a cheap and easy-to-apply answer to Australia's salinity problems. For now, however, Paul is relieved the viticultural industry, at least, has proved to have had an open mind about what seems to be a radical new solution to some difficult-to-treat problems.