

Press Release

Gross-Umstadt, 25.01.2017

New VERA Verification Statement awarded for the slurry acidification system “JH Forsuring NH4+” for finishing pigs

JH AGRO receives first VERA Verification Statement by International VERA Secretariat under German management – Official award at EuroTier 2016 in Hanover

(VERA). The first VERA Verification Statement under German management of the International VERA Secretariat was awarded to the Danish company JH AGRO for its slurry acidification system “JH Forsuring NH4+”. The statement attests that the system can achieve an ammonia reduction efficiency of 64 % when applied in finishing pigs. This finding has been shown by measurements in real-life conditions on commercial farms according to the VERA test protocol for “Housing and Management Systems”. In addition, the VERA verification statement confirms a satisfactory operational stability of this system which is a crucial requirement for receiving a VERA verification. Significant odour reduction efficacy could not be demonstrated by the evaluated test data. Dust was neither measured nor evaluated in these tests.

The “JH Forsuring NH4+” acidification system from JH AGRO applies concentrated sulphuric acid (96 %) to the manure which lowers the pH of the manure and thereby reduces the emission of ammonia from the manure. The treatment of manure is performed by flushing the manure once a day from the manure pits inside a pig house to an external process tank where concentrated sulphuric acid is added under continuous stirring until the pH reaches 5.5. The acidified slurry will subsequently be pumped back into the manure pit. A control system will assure the right dosage of acid to the manure. It can be programmed individually from section to section and farm to farm. All processes such as stirring, pumping, addition of sulphuric acid and measurement of pH values are controlled automatically via a control unit and the values logged. More details on the technology itself can be found on the company’s website at www.jhagro.com/jh_nh4_pigs/

During the EuroTier 2016, the world’s largest trade fair for livestock production, in November 2016 in Hanover, Germany, the VERA Verification Statement was officially awarded within the framework of a small ceremony.

At the joint stand of VERA and the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) Joerg Kalisch, BMEL, and Iris Beckert, Head of the International VERA Secretariat, handed over the framed title page of the VERA Statement to JH AGRO's Head of Marketing, Tina Soerensen, and the German Sales Executive, Thomas Franke. JH AGRO representatives used the VERA Statement immediately at their company stand which attracted the attention of the visitors. According to the company visitors reacted very positively on the VERA Verification and the innovative system.

As a new milestone in the VERA's history, this VERA Verification Statement is the first official statement which is published in other languages than English: It is also available in German. The Statements in both languages are available for free download at the official VERA website: <http://www.vera-verification.eu/en/vera-statements/>.

The International VERA Secretariat is looking forward to even more technologies obtaining the international recognition that a VERA Verification Statement provides. The publication of the VERA Verification Statement for JH AGRO is indicating the great activity and growing interest we are experiencing with VERA. Currently, we receive more and more applications from the VERA member countries, especially in the field of cattle farming, says Iris Beckert. Being only at a starting point, more VERA verifications are expected for the upcoming years.

What is VERA?

The VERA process is a multinational collaboration between currently Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany for testing and verifying environmental technologies within the agricultural sector. It includes test protocols for the following technologies:

- air cleaning technologies
- livestock housing and management systems
- slurry separation technologies
- technologies for reduction of gaseous emissions from land applied manure
- technologies for reduction of gaseous emissions from stored manure.

Beside farmers and authorities also manufacturers of such technologies benefit of this collaboration with regards to approval processes. Manufacturers get the possibility to have their technologies tested by a neutral and recognised test. The VERA test protocols were developed by well-known experts of the participating countries. They provide comparable and substantiated results with a high level of

acceptance. A VERA verification statement confirms that the technology was tested by a competent test laboratory according to the specifications of the relevant VERA protocol. The results allow to derive efficiency levels which can be considered with regards to emission evaluations, e. g. in approval processes. The authorities receive secured data which at the same time supports the farmer when planning new investments. The manufacturer bears all costs for the test; costs for the evaluation and issuing of the verification statement will be covered by the responsible national ministries via the VERA Secretariat.

The International VERA Secretariat

The International VERA Secretariat organizes, coordinates and implements the activities that the International VERA Board as steering committee chooses to launch. The secretariat is also responsible for launching, facilitating and monitoring the activities of the expert groups. In addition, the International VERA Secretariat handles, amongst other things the international communication, dissemination and marketing of VERA and runs the VERA website. Furthermore, it advises the environmental technology manufacturers, test institutes and authorities and assesses applications for a VERA Verification Statement. Last, but not least, the VERA Secretariat issues the VERA Verification Statements and ensures that they are used as intended.

Contact details:

International VERA Secretariat
Max-Eyth-Weg 1, 64823 Gross-Umstadt, Germany
Phone: +49 69-24788-639 or -689
Email: info@vera-verification.eu
Website: www.vera-verification.eu

Press contact:

Iris Beckert
Head of International VERA Secretariat
Phone: +49 69-24788-639
Email: info@vera-verification.eu

Pictures (attached):

- 1. VERA Logo**
- 2. VERA Award at EuroTier**
(from right to left: Tina Soerensen, Thomas Franke, Joerg Kalisch, Iris Beckert)
- 3. VERA Verification in use at JH AGRO Stand**
(Tina Soerensen)