

# Orenco® News Release

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Contact: Angela Bounds, Corporate Communications Manager, Orenco Systems® Inc.  
800-348-9843, x328, [abounds@orencosystems.com](mailto:abounds@orencosystems.com)

## **Orenco Systems® Receives Consecutive “Top Projects” Awards *Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Helps Clean Up a Florida Community***

SUTHERLIN, ORE., October 7, 2016 — For the second year in a row, an Orenco® Systems’ wastewater installation has received a “Top Projects” award from Water & Wastes Digest magazine. Winners of this coveted award are selected based on the challenges presented by their projects and how they met those challenges.

This year’s award-winning project is located in Vero Beach, Florida, a densely populated city adjacent to the Indian River Lagoon on Florida’s east coast. Many of the city’s on-lot septic tanks and drainfields were failing, and experts believed that nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria from these systems were contributing to the pollution of the watershed. To address these concerns, approximately 1,500 septic systems are now being replaced with an Orenco Sewer™ system.

Darren Paschke, a Project Manager in Orenco’s Municipal Systems group, coordinated the project. “We are excited to be recognized again this year by Water & Wastes Digest,” says Paschke. “The engineer in Vero Beach did his homework and, after analyzing several types of wastewater collection, determined that Orenco Sewer was the most cost-effective solution.”

Robert J. Bolton, P.E., is the Director of Water and Sewer for Vero Beach. While researching various sewer options, he contacted other cities that had already installed Orenco Sewer. He found they were able to maintain their systems with minimal staffing and negligible maintenance issues. “At this point,” says Bolton, “I determined that Orenco products led the industry.” And, according to Bolton’s calculations, the cost of installing an Orenco Sewer was less than half of what it would have cost to expand the city’s gravity sewer system.

Orenco Sewers use underground tanks at each home to collect wastewater solids, with pump-outs needed only 7-10 years, depending on occupancy.<sup>i</sup> The liquid waste is pumped to a treatment facility. Energy requirements, operation and maintenance needs, and life-cycle costs for the system are all typically much less than those for a traditional gravity sewer system.<sup>ii</sup>

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Last year, Orenco received a “Top Projects” award for its work in Christiansburg, Ohio. In this village of about 500 people, failing on-lot septic systems caused bad odors around town and high levels of bacteria in a nearby creek. To solve these problems, village leaders chose to install an Orenco Sewer collection system followed by an Orenco AdvanTex<sup>®</sup> Municipal Wastewater Treatment facility.

Orenco Systems Inc., based in Sutherlin, Oregon, has been designing and manufacturing energy-efficient water and wastewater products for 35 years. The company employs about 300 people and has sold its products and technologies in 70 countries worldwide. For more information, visit [www.orenco.com](http://www.orenco.com).

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EDITORS: Captions and high-resolution photos of Orenco’s Vero Beach project are available on our Media Resources web page: [www.orenco.com/corporate/media\\_resources/index.cfm](http://www.orenco.com/corporate/media_resources/index.cfm). Scroll to News Releases.

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<sup>i</sup> Orenco Systems, internal tests, based on a 95% level of confidence.

<sup>ii</sup> Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, Decentralized Systems Performance and Costs Fact Sheets, [http://www.werf.org/i/c/DecentralizedCost/Decentralized\\_Cost.aspx](http://www.werf.org/i/c/DecentralizedCost/Decentralized_Cost.aspx).