



Leon Awerbuch  
President & Chief Technology Officer  
Leading Edge Technologies Ltd.  
Past President, International  
Desalination Association (IDA)

## BIOGRAPHY

President & Chief Technology Officer, Leading Edge Technologies Ltd., Leon Awerbuch began his desalination involvement over 40 years ago. He joined Bechtel Group in 1972 in R&D followed by increased responsibilities for power and water programs as Bechtel Vice President and Senior Regional Representative for the Middle East and Africa. During his 35-year career with Bechtel, he was in charge of desalination programs involved in R&D, design and engineering as well as EPC of desalination and power projects.

Leon is currently involved in providing technical and commercial consulting to number of leading suppliers and utilities involved in Reverse Osmosis and Thermal Desalination and Power Projects as well as the assessment of new desalination technologies. He is currently an advisor to the MASDAR renewable desalination program, and evaluator of solar-desalination proposals of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science.

As a developer of LET Integrated Upgrading Systems using Nanofiltration membrane softening technology, he was granted numerous patents covering the MED-MSF-RO-NF Integrated Hybrid Technologies. He has also been awarded other patents covering Geothermal Energy and Flue Gas Desulphurization. The patented Integrated Hybrid MSF-NF project won the 2007 Global Water Intelligence Award for Innovation. He also won the first prize for Innovation conferred by the Saudi Water and Electricity Forum in 2007. Based on his patents, LET was a first prize winner of Innovative Use / Application of Technology conferred by the inaugural H2O Water Awards 2010, which celebrated the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations contributing to the advancement of the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region's water industry.

Leon is a Past President of IDA and was Chairman of six IDA World Congresses. Currently he serves as a Director of the Association and has been a Chairman and Co-chair of IDA's Technical Programs for the past 25 years. As such, he has organized and chaired over 40 conferences, forums, seminars and workshops around the world. In addition, he was First Vice President and Director of the National Water Supply Improvement Association (NWSIA) and the American Desalination Association (ADA).

Leon holds 28 patents and has published more than 90 technical papers. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from IDA at the 2007 World Congress in Grand Canarias and a Life Achievement Award at the Inaugural Power Generation and Water Solutions Middle East Awards October 2009. In January 2015, he was voted one of Water & Wastewater International's top 25 industry leaders.

He has been a technical editor of publications on desalination and water reuse culminating in the United Nation's International Year on Freshwater, addressing global freshwater challenges in preparation for the 2005-15 International Decade on "Water for Life". He contributed to the *Guidebook to Membrane Desalination* and a book on *Measurements and Control in Water Desalination*. In addition, he was a member of the task force that developed guidelines for the World Health Organization (WHO) on desalination water quality.