What is claimed is:

1. A spiral wound membrane module, comprising

a perforated core having an axially extending internal bore;

at least one membrane packet comprising a folded membrane sheet defining a first outer face, a first inner face, a second outer face and a second inner face, the fold of said folded membrane sheet being a leading edge of said membrane packet;

a feed sheet positioned between said first and second inner faces so as to be sandwiched by the folded membrane sheet;

a first permeate screen adjacent said first outer face of said membrane sheet defining a first permeate channel;

a second permeate screen adjacent said second outer face of said membrane sheet defining a second permeate channel; and

a fluid impermeable support coupled to said leading edge of said membrane packet and occupying a void between said leading edge and said first and second permeate screen.

2. The spiral wound membrane module of claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of membrane packets, each having a

leading edge and a fluid impermeable support coupled to each respective leading edge.

3. The spiral wound membrane module of claim 1, wherein said impermeable support is wedge-shaped.

4. The spiral wound membrane module of claim 2, wherein said impermeable support is wedge-shaped.

5. The spiral wound membrane module of claim 1, wherein said module is cylindrical in cross-section and has an outer surface of cured adhesive.

6. A method of potting a spiral wound membrane, comprising:

positioning the spiral wound membrane of claim 1 into sealing relation with a mold cavity;

introducing an adhesive into said mold cavity;

applying a vacuum to said mold cavity;

whereby said vacuum drives said adhesive into said first and second permeate channels; and

allowing said adhesive to cure.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the feed sheet has four edges, and wherein a solid fluid impermeable border on at least three edges during the potting operation.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said impermeable support is wedge-shaped.