



INNOVATION CHALLENGE 4

Brine challenge: are you the SME we're looking for?

BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The Water Test Network project establishes a transnational network of testing facilities in North West Europe to test, demonstrate and develop new products for the water sector. In this way, new innovations will be developed and it will accelerate time to market.

The transnational network of testing facilities offers operational demonstration sites with a range of water types in rural and urban settings. These are accessible to SMEs anywhere in North West Europe to assist them in developing products that are market-ready and linked to key sector needs.

The Water Test Network works closely with the SMEs, offering them an integrated package of support and linking them to the best possible facility for their needs. Innovation Support Vouchers are tailored to the needs of the SMEs and guarantee a certain level of fully-funded support.

In addition, the Water Test Network is launching a series of innovation challenges. This is our 4th challenge.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Membrane technologies such as ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, reversed osmosis and electrodialysis are commonly used for e.g. drinking water production and to enable water reuse from wastewater. Generate value from the resulting brine is, to date, still very limited and brines are either discharged (after dilution) or disposed of. Aside from brines from membrane technologies, we also encounter brines originating from harnessing geothermal energy in Europe. These brines may be rich in valuable elements (e.g. lithium) and therefore an interesting source for value generation purposes.

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

The Water Test Network is looking for SMEs who are developing technologies to generate value from brines. Focus is on brines from drinking water production, (industrial) wastewater treatment and geothermal sites. Technologies should be at least at TRL 4. You will be in a position to showcase your innovative technology in a real test environment. This can either be a drinking water production centre, a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant or a geothermal site. The innovation must be cost-effective and sustainable.

OFFER

- Fully-funded (logistical costs not included) access to a drinking water production centre, a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant or a geothermal site.
- Test support in terms of operator, electricity, analytical support, health & safety.
- Unique opportunity to showcase your technology to interested stakeholders (e.g. drinking water companies, water utilities, industry), who will be invited to attend a webinar, where you will present your trial results.
- Get the opportunity to showcase your technology at an International Water Related Fair or Exhibition (if COVID-19 allowed) and to get promotion through the Water Test Network newsletter.

APPLY

SMEs, preferentially located in the North West European region, can apply by submitting an application form no later than **5 September 2021 at 12 pm**. The application procedure for the innovation challenge follows the general innovation support vouchers application procedure. More information and application documents can be found [here](#) (see innovation support vouchers webpage).

CONDITIONS

- SMEs can only apply when they fulfill the *de minimis* rules (complete the de-minimis and SME declaration form)
- SMEs will need to pay their own travel / logistical costs to the testing facility
- Only one SME will be selected to showcase their innovation in this challenge

MORE INFORMATION

- <http://www.nweurope.eu/water-test-network>
- For questions contact our project manager Ruth McNeil:
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