



INNOVATION CHALLENGE 5

Digital solutions for energy efficiency: 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 5th and final challenge.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Water and wastewater treatment facilities consume considerable amounts of energy. Several digital applications are currently being developed attempting a more energy efficient treatment compared to the baseline. Innovations can include: self-learning systems (Artificial Intelligence), new sensors, novel data capture and data integration systems to optimize overall water and wastewater treatment.

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

The Water Test Network is looking for SMEs who are developing digital or sensing solutions to monitor and to reduce the energy consumption or to reduce dosing chemical additive (e.g. carbon footprint) of water and wastewater treatment facilities. Developments should be at least at TRL 4. You will be in a position to showcase and finetune your digital solutions in a real test environment. This can either be a drinking water production centre or a municipal wastewater treatment plant. The innovation must be cost-effective and sustainable.

OFFER

- Fully-funded (logistical costs not included) access to a drinking water production centre or a municipal wastewater treatment plant.
- Test support in terms of operator, electricity, analytical support, health & safety.
- Credible, reliable and independent verification to the international standard ISO 14034.
- Unique opportunity to showcase your application 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.
- A free 2-hour guidance session by the European Water Tech Accelerator on how to build on the testing and validation results to accelerate the time to market

APPLY

SMEs, preferentially located in the North West European region, can apply by submitting an application form no later than **17 March 2022 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





THE EUROPEAN TEST FACILITY NETWORK FOR WATER INNOVATION

- <http://www.nweurope.eu/water-test-network>
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