

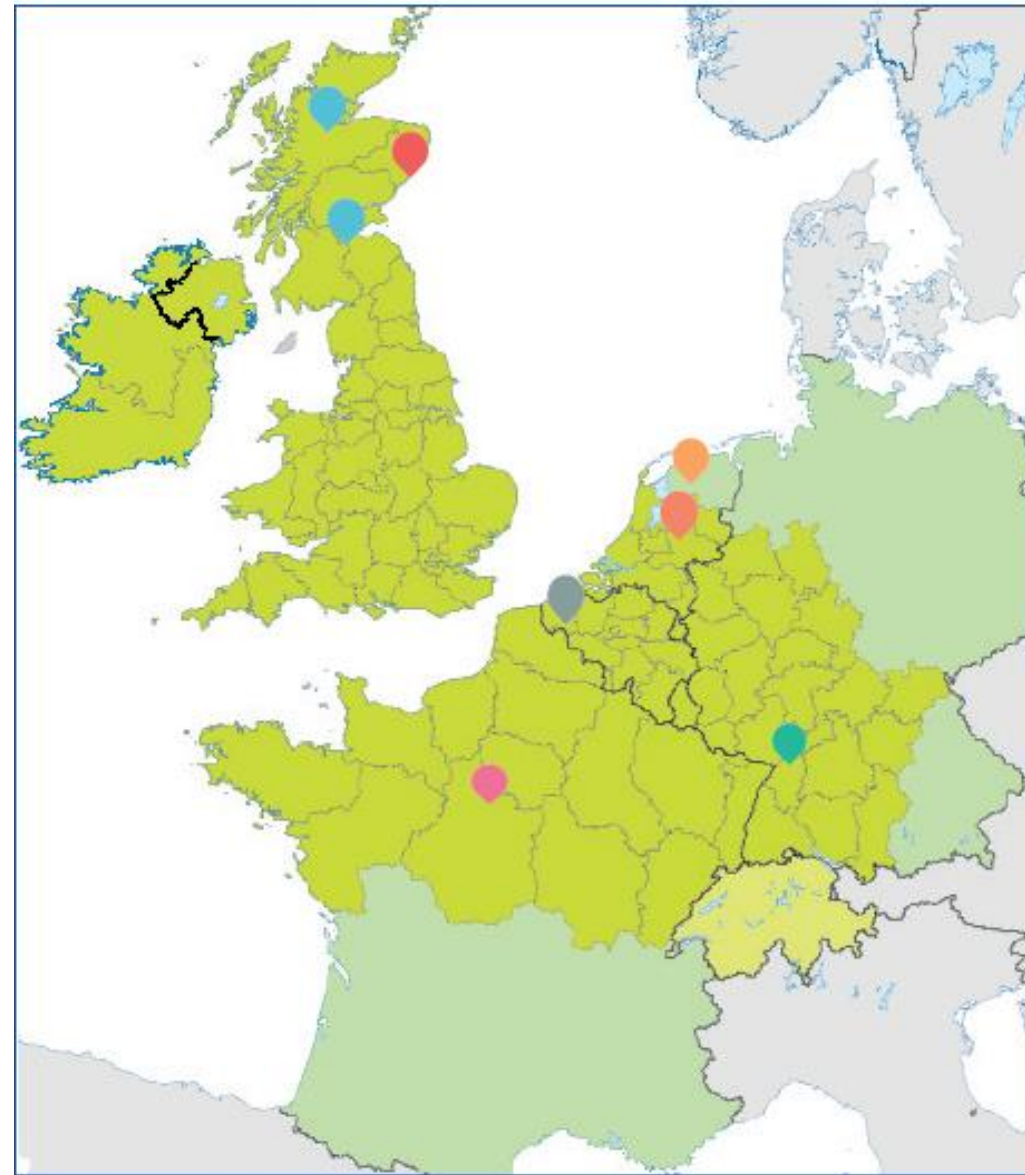


# Introduction to the 'Water Test Network'

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*Head of Scottish Water Horizons*

# The Water Test Network

- A transnational collaboration across North West Europe to create a network of testing facilities
- To address the challenges faced by the water sector
- By supporting SMEs to develop, test and verify their innovations
- Addressing key sector needs and accelerating the time to market





# Context

- North West Europe (NWE) is the most industrialised and populated region in the EU, leading to:
  - Water resource being under pressure
  - Significant wastewater issues
- EU Commission has made water protection one of the priorities of its work

*'Water Framework Directive'*



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# The Challenge

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With a growing demand on water resources, innovative technology plays an important role in reducing the supply / demand gap.

## HOWEVER...

It's a competitive global water market

Pre-commercial testing of new technology is difficult and costly

Investors are reluctant to invest in unproven technology.

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# Barriers to innovation



**EIP Water**

Boosting opportunities – Innovating water

The European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP Water) identified barriers and bottlenecks to innovation in the water sector by SMEs, we look at 4 of these:

1. Lack of funds for SMEs
2. Risk aversion of the water sector
3. Lack of demonstration sites
4. Conservative procurement



# Addressing the Barriers

The Water Test Network aims to enhance innovation performance of SMEs throughout the NWE region by addressing 4 of the barriers to innovation:

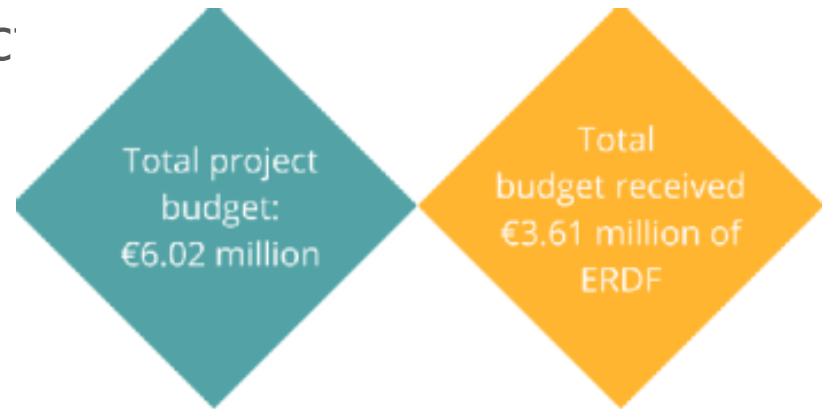
Barrier	
1. Lack of funds for SMEs	<b>Provide fully-funded support for SMEs to develop, test or verify their innovative product or service</b>
2. Risk aversion of the water sector	<b>Bridge the gap between laboratory scale/pilot scale innovation and operational scale innovation</b>
3. Lack of demonstration sites	<b>Bring existing facilities together into a transnational network of testing facilities which SMEs can use to bring new products and services to market</b>
4. Conservative procurement	<b>Enable SMEs to test their innovations at an operational level and provide independent technology verification therefore lowering risk for investors</b>

# The Project

The Water Test Network was allocated funding through the Interreg North-West Europe Programme under their



The programme provides European Regional Development Fund co-financing for 60% of the project:





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# The Project Objective

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*Aim of the project is to:*

*Move products' development closer to market*

*Reduce the time taken to bring products to market in the water sector*

*Deliver towards the Interreg NWE Programme specific objective: to enhance innovation performance of enterprises throughout the NWE region by supporting SMEs to bring products to market.*



# The Project Benefits

- Creates an ongoing transnational network for sharing knowledge
- Makes it easier to test and verify innovations to overcome the reluctance over 'unproven' technologies
- Enhances innovation opportunities and accelerates times to market
- Provides fully-funded support packages tailored to the needs of the SMEs (up to a maximum of €50,000)



# The Project Model

A transnational network of testing facilities



# The Project Model

Making available a range of water types for testing

- Industrial, Municipal and Hospital Waste Water
- Surface and Ground Water including Sea Water
- Vegetable Processing Water
- Drinking Water
- Condensate Water
- Sludge

Providing validation and verification services







# The Project Model

In the form of a fully-funded integrated support package

**Investigative  
report**

**Access to test  
facility**

**Verification  
report**

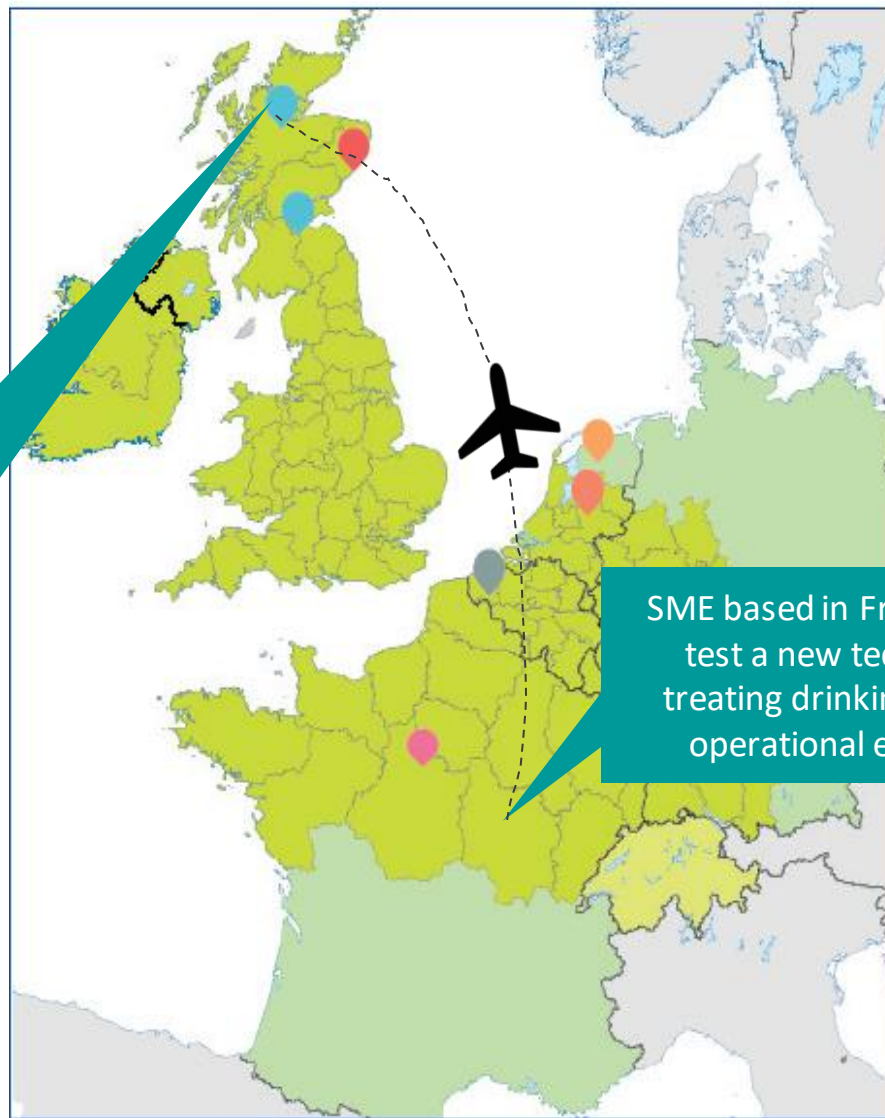
**Up to  
€50,000  
of total  
support**

Tailored to the needs of the SMEs

# The Project Model

Linking SMEs to the best-fit facility for their testing / verification needs

Tests their technology in a drinking water testing facility in the UK



SME based in France wishes to test a new technology for treating drinking water in an operational environment



# The Project Model

- A transnational network of testing facilities
- Making available a range of water types for testing
- Providing validation and verification services
- In the form of a fully-funded integrated support package
- Tailored to the needs of the SMEs
- Linking them to the best-fit facility for their testing / verification needs

**In this way, new innovations will be developed and it will accelerate the time to market, providing an investor ready pipeline of new products and processes**

# The Project Targets

By 6<sup>th</sup>  
December  
2021

At least **120** SMEs  
supported

**90** new  
technologies tested

**30** new  
technologies  
brought to market  
by the SMEs

Network forms a  
**sustainable  
business** after  
the project lifetime



Thank you

