



## INNOVATION CHALLENGE 3

### PFAS removal 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 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge.

#### PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of over 6000 synthetic chemicals including PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and GenX (hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid). PFAS have been used widely since the fifties due to their excellent properties: water and fat repellent and heat resistant. Unfortunately, PFAS are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulate. They are detected worldwide in soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment. Governing bodies are therefore working on adequate regulations to protect biota and humans.

## CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

The Water Test Network is looking for SMEs who are developing technologies to remove PFAS. Focus is on the removal of PFAS from groundwater for drinking water production, municipal wastewater and industrial wastewater. Technologies should be able to meet the (upcoming) standards for drinking water (likely sumPFAS = 0,1 µg/l; PFAS total = 0,5 µg/l) and inland surface water (AA-EQS =  $6,5 \cdot 10^{-4}$  µg/l and MAC-EQS = 36 µg/l for PFOS). 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 wastewater treatment plant or an industrial site (e.g. waste processing, chemical industry). The innovation must result in cost-effective and efficient PFAS removal.

## OFFER

- Fully-funded (logistical costs not included) access to a drinking water production center, a municipal wastewater treatment plant or an industrial site located in one of the partner countries.
- 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 both to visit the test location and 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.

## APPLY

SMEs, preferentially located in the North West European region, can apply by submitting an application form no later than **1 September 2020 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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