



Press Release

EU boosts development of innovative technologies for safe drinking water supply

Through financing the Integrated Project TECHNEAU, the European Commission has decided to stimulate the development and application of innovative and cost effective European strategies and technologies for safe drinking water supply. TECHNEAU is financed within the scope of the EU 6th Framework Programme and will be conducted by a consortium of 30 universities, research institutes and technology suppliers from Europe and developing countries. A large number of water utilities have committed to the project. TECHNEAU was launched in January 2006 and will last for 5 years. The total project budget is 19 Mio €, of which 13,2 Mio € will be contributed by the European Commission.

TECHNEAU will develop and demonstrate adaptive supply system options and new and improved supply and monitoring technologies and management practices. Treatment strategies will be based on robust multi-barrier schemes and control methodologies, providing safety against a broad spectrum of chemical and microbiological contaminants and avoiding organoleptic problems at the tap. Monitoring technologies will provide 'on-line' and 'at the site' information on water quality including parameters that relate to malicious contamination. Practices for risk assessment/risk management, operation and maintenance, and models for consumer acceptance will constitute the framework for these technologies. These technologies and management practices will enable end-users to make informed choices, appropriate to their own circumstances and constraints, for cost-effective and sustainable source-to-tap solutions for the provision of safe high quality drinking water that has the trust of the consumer.

TECHNEAU will create a significant step forward in the state-of-the-art through introducing an integrated source-to-tap approach and by working on the interface between scientific disciplines, water supply stakeholders and industries and SME's from other sectors. The project will bring promising and innovative technologies to the market and into operation with the water supply stakeholders. Examples are membrane and oxidation based treatment technologies both for large and small supply systems, bioassays for lab-scale detection of contaminants and as early warning systems for chemical and biological risks, UV based sensor systems and 'electronic nose' technology for water quality fingerprinting. Web based, predictive and integrated computer models will be developed enabling control and optimisation of existing water supply systems with respect to water quality, reliability, customer service level, environmental impact and costs.

Contacts for further information:

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List of partners involved in TECHNEAU

Category	Partner
Universities	<p>Riga Technical University (Latvia) NTNU (Norway) UNESCO-IHE (the Netherlands) University of Surrey (UK) RWTH Aachen University (Germany) Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden) Technische Universiteit Delft (the Netherlands) Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (India)</p>
Research and technology institutes	<p>Kiwa Water Research (the Netherlands) SINTEF (Norway) Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin gemeinnützige GmbH (Germany) Eawag (Switzerland) DEUTSCHE VEREINIGUNG DES GAS- UND WASSERFACHES E.V. (DVGW) (Germany) WRc (UK) LNEC (Portugal) Water Research Commission (South Africa) Anjou Recherche Veolia (France) Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V. (Germany) Mekorot (Israel) Swartz Water Utilisation Engineers (South Africa) National Institute of Public Health (Czech Republic)</p>
Technology providers/SME	<p>EUCETSA (Belgium) BDS (the Netherlands) ALPHA MOS (France) S::can (Austria) Vermicon (Germany) bbe Moldaenke GmbH (Germany) Aqualyng (Norway) Opalium (France)</p>