



## INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2

### Pharmaceutical 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 the 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 2<sup>nd</sup> challenge.

#### PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Pharmaceuticals used by humans are partially excreted in urine and via the sewer end up in municipal wastewater treatment plants. To date the majority of European urban wastewater treatment plants (UWWTP's) are not equipped with infrastructure to effectively remove these pharmaceuticals. As such, they end up in the surface water and pose a problem to the (aquatic) environment. Adequate pharmaceutical removal from wastewater is therefore becoming more urgent, especially in the view of emerging water reuse. Moreover, it is expected that with the growing aging population the overall use of pharmaceuticals will further increase.

## CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

The Water Test Network is looking for SME's who can help us to detect and/or remove (watch list) pharmaceuticals from wastewater (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/updated-surface-water-watch-list-adopted-commission> ). You will be in a position to showcase your innovative technology in a real test environment. This can either be a municipal wastewater treatment plant or the untreated wastewater of a hospital.

The innovation must result in cost-effective and efficient pharmaceutical detection and/or removal. Applications from removal technologies, as well as innovative analytical methods, technologies or tools are very much welcomed.

## OFFER

- Fully-funded (logistical costs not included) access to a full scale municipal wastewater treatment plant or the wastewater of a hospital located in one of the partner countries (UK, FR, NL, BE, GE).
- Test support in terms of operator, electricity, analytical support, health & safety.
- Unique opportunity to showcase your technology to interested stakeholders (e.g. water utilities, hospitals), 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

SME's in the North West European region can apply by submitting an application form no later than **1 February 2020 at 12 pm**. The application procedure for the innovation challenge follows the general innovation vouchers application procedure. More information and application documents can be found [here](#) (see innovation support vouchers webpage).

## CONDITIONS

- SME's can only apply when they fulfill the *de minimis* rules (complete the de-minimis and SME declaration form)
- SME's 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:



# Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

## North-West Europe

### Water Test Network

European Regional Development Fund



## THE EUROPEAN TEST FACILITY NETWORK FOR WATER INNOVATION

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