

Business Forum Session – Thursday, September 25th, 2014

Water Innovation support for SME

- *Leveraging the network of National Water Partnerships* -



Context

To support European SMEs in the water sector, National Water Partnerships (NWP) across Europe have joined forces in the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP/W) Action Group 'DIS-SMEs'. Together they represent close to 1.100 members, primarily SMEs.

The NWP are working together in a smart, pan-European network where SMEs benefit from opportunities in Europe. The aim of the Action Group is to function as an SME support system and a spinning wheel for cross national matchmaking. This will be done by creating more opportunities for SMEs to successfully bring innovative water technologies to the (international) markets.

Purpose of the session

This session aims at presenting and discussing the strategy of the Action Group going forward and at gathering input from SME representatives across Europe in order to better support them. The pillars of a proposed integrated work program for the next 3 years will equally be discussed. Experiences from SMEs in working in European projects will be shared, as well as opportunities for available business support that NWP offer.

Session programme

13:30 Francisco Nunes Correia, President, Portuguese Water Partnership (15 min.)

- *Key note on barriers to the uptake and wider use of innovative environmental technologies*

13:45 Tom Vereijken, Chairman, European Water Partnership (15min.)

- *DIS-SME Action Group – Initiatives to date and perspectives on strategy going forward*
 - Supporting SMEs in the water sector by building and strengthening a pan-European SME service support platform of NWP's
 - Promoting the uptake of R&D and innovation results to increase the implementation of water-related innovations
 - Providing direct support to SMEs in the water sector to successfully commercialise their products and services

14:00 Supporting water innovations and SME Roundtable, moderated by Aleid Diepeveen, Business Development Director, Netherlands Water Partnership

- *Supporting the successful commercialisation of water innovations: experiences from the Netherlands Water Partnership*
- *SME Q&A session*

14:40 Robert Schröder, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission (to be confirmed)

- *Opportunities for SMEs under EIP Water: concluding remarks and recommendations going forward*

14:55 Q&A and next steps

Moderator: Francisco Nunes Correia, President, Portuguese Water Partnership

Intended participants

This session is open to representatives of SMEs engaged in innovation, research institutions, financial institutions and National Water Partnerships.

Convenors

Under the coordination of the European Water Partnership (EWP), the following National Water Partnerships are currently engaged in the Action Group: Catalan Water Partnership (CWP), Danish Water Forum (DWF), Finnish Water Forum (FWF), French Water Partnership (FWP), German Water Partnership (GWP), Netherlands Water Partnership, (NWP), Portuguese Water Partnership and Swiss Water Partnership (SWP).

The Action Group brings potential partners from members of the NWP's and other water sector stakeholders together and support European SMEs to find potential (international) partners and end-users.

Logistics

- Date & timing: Thursday, September 25th, from 13:30 to 15:00
- Venue: Business Forum Room 1
- Note: Room capacity is limited to 50 people. Please sign up via e-mail to Ms. Ana Carlos, Portuguese Water Partnership (geral@ppa.pt)