



### Biological phosphate removal to prevent algal blooms

[Harmful cyanobacterial blooms](#) are a massive threat to the environment and reduction of phosphorus to very low concentrations is a key strategy to combat these blooms. Recent Wetsus research shows that hydrogen oxidizing bacteria used in a trickling bed filter can reduce inorganic phosphate concentrations to as low as 0.008 mg/L. The treated water was found not to support cyanobacterial growth. The research is part of the theme Protein from water and was published in the journal *Bioresource Technology*.

### European Water Technology Week 2020 cancelled, next edition in 2022

Wetsus and the other organizers of the European Water Technology Week have decided to cancel the scheduled EWTW 2020 in September, due to the situation in the world regarding the Covid-19 virus. The Wetsus Congress 2020 was integrated in the EWTW program. The Wetsus Congress 2021 will be held on October 4 and 5.

The next EWTW, organized every two years by WaterCampus Leeuwarden, will be held in 2022, September 19-22. The new trade fair Water Tech Europe, an initiative of WTC EXPO, has also been postponed to these dates.

The organizers had to take this decision because in the near future, there is no clear view on the possibilities for organizing events after September 1. With EWTW being an international event, speakers and visitors from all over the world need clarity in order to make arrangements to come to The Netherlands.

The partners at WaterCampus Leeuwarden will get back to you during the course of this year, with other interesting events.



### Wetsus' continuity secured for coming years

Recently, Mona Keijzer, State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, has presented the conclusions of the 'Expert Group Governance Water Technology' to the Dutch government. The Expert Group was installed by Ms. Keijzer in order to evaluate the governance of water technology research in the Netherlands, Wetsus' position in that and the future financing of Wetsus. The conclusions can be found [here](#).

Wetsus is very happy with the fact that its added value for the Dutch science and innovation community is underlined by the commission, and that the commission recognizes the important role that Wetsus plays in the Dutch science infrastructure. The commission therefore recommends to secure our long term financing. In the report, the structure and sources for the long term government financing of Wetsus are outlined, including a solution for a transition funding for 2021 and 2023, allowing Wetsus to adequately prepare for long term financing from 2023 onwards. Although the funding from 2023 onwards still poses some challenges, we look to the future with confidence. We sincerely thank all funding partners from companies, universities and governments for enabling this.

Since our start in 2003 the Dutch water sector has grown, has become more knowledge intensive and has increased its export. The Dutch water sector has a very strong international reputation. We are very happy that with the continuation of our program, we can not only continue to support the sector, but also develop solutions for global environmental challenges and educate young talents to create a fair and sustainable world.

## Wetsus scientists write book

The past months have been unprecedented for many people around the world, and also at Wetsus we had to make several adjustments to keep our research going. Most were asked to work from home for long periods of time. This new perspective also led to positive developments: one of the scientists at Wetsus, dr. Maarten Biesheuvel, together with a Wetsus-alumnus, ass.-prof. Jouke Dykstra from Wageningen University, started writing the book they always wanted to write. The [book](#) is available as a pre-release free of charge from the website

[Here](#) you find a chapter overview.

The book covers many of the topics Wetsus is active in, about bio-electrochemical systems, colloidal stability, electrode reactions, and water desalination with reverse osmosis and electrodialysis. The authors hope you will enjoy reading this book, and let them know your opinion or comments to further improve the book!

More book related news: before summer, Wetsus will publish the second Wetsus Innovation book, examples of our work in practice.

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## First Wetsus theme meetings online

Due to the Corona situation, our Wetsus theme meetings and workshop day in April had to be held in a different way: online. That was a first of its kind, and we are happy that everything went well. The workshop part had to be cancelled, but the key note speaker, mr. Allard Stikker, will be our guest in the future.

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## Financieringstafel Friesland: financing possibilities for start-ups and scale-ups

After a successful kick-off in February, Financieringstafel Friesland (organized by WaterCampus and the province of Fryslân) already has been fully booked for the second meeting in June. The table brings together entrepreneurs and investors, in order to bring more clarity in the diverse offering of financing possibilities. It often is difficult to know who to turn to when you are a start-up or scale-up company and find access to financing. [Here](#) you can find all the details and the next meeting dates.



Both companies and investors are welcome to take a look at all the possibilities! Investors can contact the Financieringstafel without any obligations, in order to get to know cases that might interest them and learn more about these cases.