

8 million for consortium Enabling water technology

A consortium, consisting of Wetsus, University of Groningen, Deltares and NOM receives € 8 million to faster translate water technology research results into society and the economy. This will accelerate the transition towards a more circular, sustainable and climate neutral economy.

The Netherlands Enabling Watertechnology (NEW) consortium stimulates startups and other entrepreneurship initiatives in water technology: water treatment, reuse of water and raw materials, production and storage of energy from water and smart management of the water system are the main topics.

NEW has two pillars: knowledge transfer and an investment fund. Promising initiatives are scouted, guided in the valorization process and after selection nominated for a review by the NEW-fund. Without the financial support, a lot of good ideas may not make it to the market.

The NEW consortium is one of three consortia to receive € 8 million, was announced by the Dutch ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

More information can be found [here](#).

New Wetsus members

Aquaminerals (www.aquaminerals.com) joined the theme Phosphate Recovery. AquaMinerals aims to be a leading player in the development of functional markets for secondary raw materials originating in the watercycle.

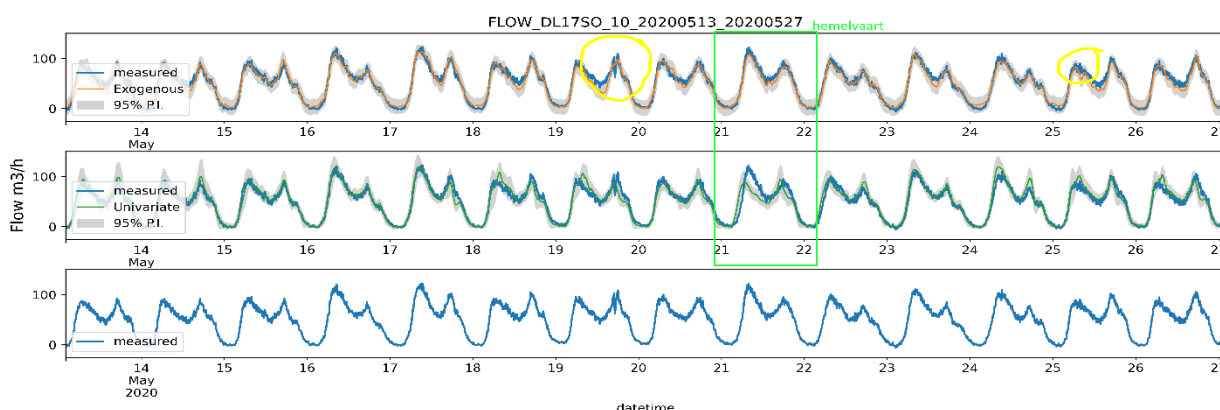
Coval Energy B.V. (www.covalenergy.com) became a member of the Sustainable Carbon Cycle theme. Founded in 2015, Coval Energy is a clean-tech company with a complementary team of specialists, committed to providing CO2 conversion solutions to alleviate the world's dependence on fossil fuel.

Waddenvereniging (www.waddenvereniging.nl) is a new platform member. The Waddenvereniging (45,000) members is the leading NGO for the protection of the Waddensea area in the Netherlands.

Artificial intelligence in our water distribution networks

Research is done towards smart data processing at the Wetsus Smart water grids theme by PhD researcher Caspar Geelen. This research focuses on maximizing the information that can be extracted from currently collected data from flow and pressure sensors in the network. With the use of machine learning algorithms, these sensors can be used to issue warnings when pipe bursts occur in real-time, while minimizing the number of false alarms. The developed algorithms are run on data from member water companies like PWN. At PWN, a group of data scientists made steps towards implementation of these algorithms.

Peter Horst, (PWN) adds: Caspar made our sensor data alive with his developed algorithms in such a way that they are not just being displayed as daily data on the PWN dashboards, but also lead to signaling of abnormal situations such as leakages or pump failure. This will assist us in further increasing the delivery quality of water to our customers and increasing information provision to them.



Wetsus secures new European funding for PhD program

The Wetsus EMPOWER project, for the recruitment and training of 14 PhD researchers, was selected for European funding this week. Officially called the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) project EMPOWER, it succeeds the current MSCA project WaterSEED.

EMPOWER will start on January 1, 2022, will run for 5 years and comes with an EU funding of €1.7 million. In EMPOWER, extra attention will be given to business training to complement the PhD degree, with the aim to train scientific entrepreneurs that have the skillset to operate between academia, business, the public sector and the general public. According to the evaluators, "the program is expected to significantly enhance the potential and career prospects of Early Stage Researchers by promoting high-quality, innovative, multidisciplinary research in an excellent research environment."

This second MSCA grant is a testimony of the quality of the Wetsus PhD program as a whole, and of the individuals and partners that are part of the Wetsus research cooperation. From the evaluation report "The quality of training is ensured through a well-planned, innovative and comprehensive education program, coupled with career and networking activities, which will endow the ESPs with a diverse, highly coveted set of scientific, transferable and business-oriented skills."



PhD positions available!

Wetsus recently launched a call for 9 PhD positions. You can find the positions on our dedicated [PhD website](#). The deadline for applications is May 7, 2021.

Wetsus Congress 2021

Save the date: the next annual Wetsus Congress will held on October 4 and 5, 2021. The theme is: excellence in innovation. Time will tell if we can meet you in person, hybrid or online!

Focco Vijselaar about the Wow factor for water technology

Our WaterCampus entrepreneurship manager Ronald Wielinga had the opportunity to talk to Focco Vijselaar, Directorate-General for Enterprise and Innovation at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

They talked about innovation within and outside Campus structures, the importance of water technology for the Netherlands and the challenges our sector faces. How will water technology get the Wow factor?

You can read the interview at the [WaterCampus website](#).

