

Wetsus' research already led to 100 patent applications

Unique inventions with impact – one hundred water tech patent applications have proven Wetsus' research to be novel and inventive. To safeguard the interests of the participating companies, Wetsus, since its foundation, has been actively seeking protection for the inventions made by the researchers working within the Wetsus cooperation program. Now, twenty years later, we have reached the milestone of one hundred patent applications. "Wetsus' patents are unique in their position. The focus on application and company-involvement is not something you often see at research institutes. It is an achievement," says Dr. Gerwald Verdijck, patent attorney at Arnold & Siedsma, involved in most of Wetsus' patent applications.

The 100 patent applications show the diversity and multidisciplinary nature of the Wetsus program, from waste-consuming aquatic worms to plasma discharge in a vortex. Patents are especially important for start-up or SME companies to gain a strong position in the market. REDstack with many blue energy inventions is, of course, a great example. "I am proud to see so many inventions taken up and scaled up by our company partners," says Wetsus patent coordinator Dr. Roel Meulepas. "Also, the dedication of the researchers to work on a patent application is great to see. There is a certain beauty in witnessing the realization that they are not 'just' researchers, but inventors too."

The nature of patent applications has evolved over the years. At the start, Wetsus was focused on protecting ideas so our companies would not lose the IP. Later we refined this strategy by involving our company partners early on, even before writing the patent application. This has led to a 50% increase in the effectiveness of the patenting process. Wetsus transfers the same high number of patents, while we spend considerably less time and money in the whole process. Verdijck: "It is great to see such an application-oriented development – not something you often see at research institutes."

The expertise and dedication of the patent attorneys at Arnold & Siedsma Leeuwarden have been crucial for obtaining and valorizing IP rights. "Let's keep the cooperation going and hit the next milestone," says Meulepas, "100 Wetsus inventions that have been taken up by our company partners for further commercialization."

New Member

[Rio Tinto](#) recently became a Wetsus platform member. Rio Tinto is a leading global mining group that focuses on finding, mining and processing mineral resources, and operates in 35 countries with 52,000 employees.

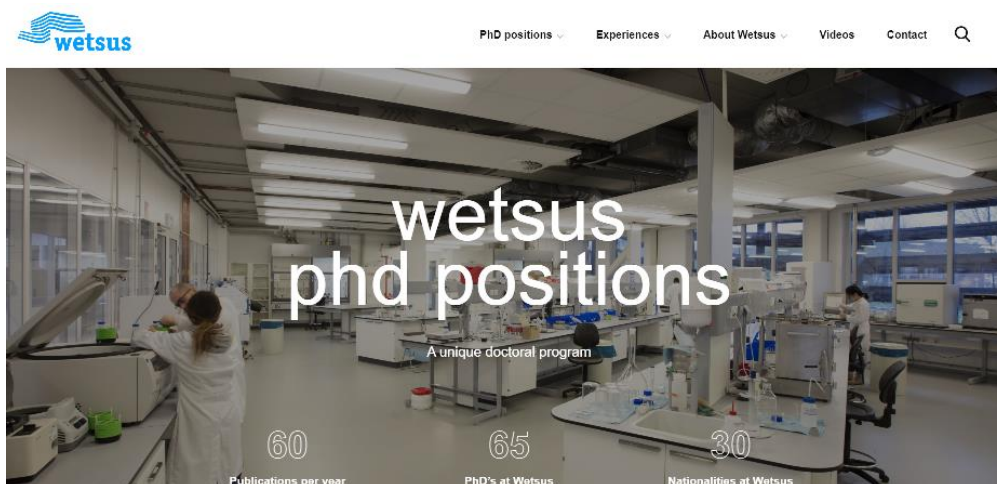


RioTinto

New PhD call opened!

Our 2023 PhD call is online and now complete with 9 new projects in the field of water technology to choose from! You will find the full projects description and information on how to correctly apply at our dedicated website: <https://phdpositionswetsus.eu/>.

The application deadline is 26 May 2023.



Thomas Prot wins MCT Thesis Award

Wetsus' Thomas Prot has won the MCT thesis award of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging-KNCV, the Dutch association of chemistry for his PhD thesis on phosphate recovery via #vivianite from iron coagulated sewage sludge! Thomas did his work at Wetsus under supervision of Leon Korving, and of professor Mark van Loosdrecht of Delft University of Technology. Thanks also to all the company members in the Phosphate Recovery theme of Wetsus: Kemira, Waterschap Brabantse Delta, Waterschapsbedrijf Limburg, AquaMinerals B.V., VandCenter Syd, Royal HaskoningDHV and Aquacare Europe.

Dutch Junior Water Prize

Diona de Jager, Elle Raven and Femke Kruisselbrink are the winners of the Dutch Junior Water Prize and will represent the Netherlands at the competition in Stockholm. Stockholm Junior Water Prize is a competition for students aged 15 to 20 who have developed research projects that can help solve major water challenges. The competition attracts tens of thousands of entries from over 40 countries. The Dutch entry is about a special kind of toilet paper that helps reduce antibiotics in wastewater.



Organizer Ronald Wielinga, handing out the prize to Annija Emersone and Julija Karasa.

The winners of the WaterCampus Business Challenge: P-Agro Minerals, represented by Annija Emersone and Julija Karasa from Latvia. They developed a mineral based adsorbent to recover Phosphorus from waste water. Due to the properties of the material, it is possible to reuse the P while at the same time the adsorption capacity is higher than current solutions. After a customer discovery the team is ready for their first pilot testing in practice.

Save the date

- Date: 02 June 2023: [Three defenses in Leeuwarden:](#)
[Qingdian Shu, Ruben Halfwerk and Chris Schott \(Wageningen University\)](#)
- Date: 12 June 2023: [Defense Carlo Belloni \(Delft University of Technology\)](#)
- Date: 21 September 2023: [Wetsus theme meetings \(members only\)](#)
- Date: 09 – 10 October 2023: [Wetsus Congress](#)
- Date: 23 November 2023: [Wetsus Members Only Congress](#)

[All details](#)