German innovation partner for smart water infrastructure and digital water technologies seeks international technology / R&D cooperation

Summary

Profile type
Technology request

Company's country
Germany

POD reference
TRDE20261023043

Profile status
PUBLISHED

Type of partnership
Research and development cooperation agreement

Targeted countries
- **Denmark**
- **Sweden**
- **Switzerland**
- **Cyprus**
- **Austria**

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Term of validity
23 Oct 2026
23 Oct 2027

Last update
23 Oct 2026

General Information

Short summary

The German SME active in the water sector is seeking research organisations, SMEs, utilities and industrial partners for collaborative technology, R&D and innovation projects in smart and sustainable water infrastructure. Areas of interest include drinking water supply, digitalisation, sensor technologies, resilient infrastructure, resource efficiency and circular economy. They offer complete R+D+I, including engineering expertise, prototype development and innovation management.

Full description

The company is a German SME specialised in the development, manufacturing and innovation of components and systems for municipal water utilities and drinking water infrastructure. To strengthen international innovation activities, they are seeking research organisations, industrial companies, water utilities and technology providers interested in developing joint technology projects and transferring innovative technologies into practical applications. A particular interest exists in the area of greywater recycling / water reuse concerning regions with water shortages as well as concerning the broader topic of water resilience.

The SME has extensive experience in collaborative research and innovation projects covering the entire innovation chain – from concept development and feasibility studies through prototype development and validation to market preparation. Their core areas of expertise include:

- Smart drinking water infrastructure
- Sensor integration and digital monitoring
- Leak detection and condition monitoring
- Energy harvesting for autonomous infrastructure components
- Innovative technologies for improving drinking water quality and addressing emerging contaminants
- Protection of water infrastructure against biofouling and invasive aquatic organisms (e.g. biofilms, quagga and zebra mussels, including their larval stages)
- Circular economy approaches in the water sector
- Climate-resilient water infrastructure
- Digitalisation of municipal water networks
- Smart valves and infrastructure components
- Process engineering and environmental technologies

In addition to the SME's technical expertise, they can contribute strong capabilities in project management, partner coordination, dissemination and exploitation planning, as well as extensive experience with national and European funding programmes. Moreover, the company has a strong track record in coordinating collaborative R&D projects and acting as lead partner in national and international research initiatives. Core competencies include project conceptualisation, consortium building, proposal preparation, work package structuring, technical and administrative coordination, budget and resource management, communication with funding bodies, reporting, dissemination, and exploitation planning.

The company is particularly interested in establishing long-term cooperation with:

- Universities and research organisations
- SMEs offering complementary technologies
- Water utilities and municipal infrastructure operators
- Engineering consultancies
- Technology providers
- Public authorities and innovation cluster

The objective is to jointly develop innovative solutions that enhance the sustainability, resilience, digitalisation and resource efficiency of future water infrastructures while creating attractive exploitation and commercialisation opportunities for all project partners.

Advantages and innovations

The company combines long-standing industrial experience in water infrastructure with applied research, prototype development and innovation management. Unlike organisations focusing exclusively on research or manufacturing, the SME bridges the gap between scientific results and market-ready applications. Core competencies include the development and validation of intelligent components for drinking water infrastructure, sensor integration, energy harvesting, digitalisation of water networks, leak detection, advanced monitoring technologies and sustainable water

treatment.

The SME has extensive experience in initiating and coordinating collaborative R&D projects involving other SMEs, universities, research institutes, utilities and public stakeholders. It contributes not only engineering expertise and prototype manufacturing but also project management, technology transfer and innovation networking. As outlined above, the company has proven experience and a strong track record in leading and coordinating collaborative R&D projects. A particular strength is the interdisciplinary "Water–Science–Industry" approach, bringing together industrial requirements, scientific excellence and practical implementation. This enables efficient development of innovative technologies with high practical relevance and clear exploitation potential.

The SME explores emerging topics including PFAS and other emerging contaminants/micropollutants, for which it has already initiated innovative R&D projects and activities in the areas of resilient water infrastructure, smart sensors, digital asset management, resource efficiency, circular economy and climate adaptation. Existing manufacturing capabilities (metal and polymer processing, prototype construction, additive manufacturing, assembly and validation) enable rapid transfer from concept to demonstrator and pilot applications.

Technical specification or expertise sought

As the focus of interest is located in the areas of water shortage / water reuse / greywater recycling, they welcome partners who can contribute their scientific, technical or industrial technology expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Smart and resilient drinking water infrastructure
- Digitalisation, sensor technologies, and intelligent monitoring and surveillance systems
- Innovative processes and technologies for addressing emerging contaminants, such as micro-plastics, PFAS and related substances
- Resource efficiency and circular economy
- Climate adaptation and sustainable water management
- Process engineering and environmental technologies, including sensor technologies, digital infrastructure components and data management

They are particularly interested in partners with experience in collaborative research and development projects, pilot and demonstration activities, validation under real operating conditions, and technology transfer. They invite their partners to actively contribute to one or more stages of the innovation process, for example through:

- Joint research and technology development
- Development of innovative processes, components and prototypes
- Demonstration under real operating conditions
- Manufacturing and industrial implementation
- Standardisation and regulatory support
- Dissemination, exploitation and market deployment of innovative solutions

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
- **Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**

IPR Status

IPR granted

IPR Notes

The company pursues an active strategy for the protection of intellectual property. The current intellectual property portfolio comprises more than 70 published intellectual property rights, including 30 utility models, 27 published patent applications and 17 granted patents in the broader fields of water infrastructure and related engineering solutions. Furthermore, the company has extensive experience in managing intellectual property within national and international collaborative research and development projects.

Additional information on the intellectual property portfolio can be provided to interested cooperation partners during further discussions and, where appropriate, under the terms of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

The company is looking for research organisations, universities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), industrial companies, water utilities and public authorities interested in establishing long-term cooperation in research, development and innovation with regard to the technologies outlined above.

Together with the cooperation partner, they aim to develop innovative, practical and sustainable solutions that enhance the resilience, digitalisation and resource efficiency of future water infrastructures while creating tangible added value for water utilities, industry, municipalities and society. The expected role of the partner is therefore one of a research and development partner organisation.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 11-49**
- **SME 50 - 249**
- **R&D Institution**

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **10004001 - Industrial Water Treatment**
- **10004002 - Municipal Water Treatment**

Market keywords

- **08002002 - Industrial measurement and sensing equipment**
- **08004003 - Water treatment equipment and waste disposal systems**

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Sector groups involved