



Italy and the Netherlands

Watertech Solutions: collaborative water management through expertise and innovation

Foreword

On behalf of the Embassy of the Kingdom in the Netherlands in Italy

“Italy and the Netherlands teaming up for the future of water”

Water is essential to life on earth. Covering 70 percent of the globe, it defines our planet. It connects and sustains us. We use it to generate our energy, drive our agriculture and industries, and safeguard our health and sanitation systems. Today, the availability of this ‘blue gold’ is increasingly threatened by the consequences of climate change, such as floods, droughts and other extreme weather events.

As the Netherlands is located in a low-lying delta region, our history and culture have been formed by water. From this experience, we have learned to adapt and continued to develop technologies that can help all of us address today’s pressing water-related challenges.

Italy is in the midst of an ambitious effort to improve its entire water sector. Investment, know-how, technologies are needed to enhance utility assets, focusing on leakage control, pipeline condition assessment, and the improvement of wastewater treatment facilities.

The Netherlands are willing to share its best practices and building on complementarities. Over the next three years, the PIB program ‘Watertech2Italy’ will allow Dutch and Italian stakeholders to create opportunities to strengthen their ties and establish fruitful cooperation in the water management sector.

The PIB -‘Partners for International Business’ - is a public-private partnership which involves the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, a government agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, 9 cluster companies coordinated by Isle Utilities with the Netherlands Embassy and the Consulate General with the support of Proaxxes for the match-making activities playing a key role in facilitating local connections and supporting the initiative.

Thanks to the innovative, forward-looking solutions offered by our business sector and research ecosystem, we are proud of making the Netherlands and Italy work together towards a more sustainable, water-proof future. Let’s team up for the future of water!



Michael Stibbe
Ambassador Designate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Italy



Mascha Baak
Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Milan

Transforming water management to address climate change: a proactive approach

Climate change is having a growing impact on water management, with severe flooding and prolonged droughts affecting regions worldwide. To address these challenges, it is crucial for utilities and water management organisations to gain a deeper understanding and more control over the water cycle. This includes managing groundwater, detecting floods, and remotely monitoring pipelines and pumps. Ultimately, it involves overseeing entire networks with advanced data management systems.



The Netherlands, a global leader in sustainable water management, is at the forefront of developing innovative technologies that offer more accurate, near-real-time data. These solutions empower utilities to proactively manage water resources, leading to long-term cost savings and increased efficiency.

As part of the Dutch-Italian collaboration, Dutch companies are eager to explore new partnerships and business opportunities in Italy. By sharing their expertise in cutting-edge water technology, these companies aim to contribute to the development of sustainable, resilient water management systems worldwide. Together, the Netherlands and Italy are paving the way for a more sustainable future in water management.



Italy and the Netherlands: creating value from water

Italy is embarking on an ambitious journey to transform its water sector through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), which runs from 2023 to 2026. This €7.4 billion investment focuses on enhancing utility assets, addressing leakage control, assessing pipeline conditions, and improving wastewater treatment facilities. The future of water management lies in the digitisation of networks, enabling informed decision-making and proactive issue detection.

While Italy is making strides in improving water management, the Netherlands offers invaluable support through the sharing of best practices and expertise. With a strong commitment to sustainability and efficiency, the Netherlands excels in digital solutions and asset management, particularly in the management of drinking water distribution networks.

As a leader in innovation, the Netherlands actively promotes global collaboration, providing cutting-edge water technologies to address challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and flooding. Through its open knowledge-sharing approach, the Netherlands continues to lead the way in sustainable water solutions, positioning itself as a hub for research, development, and international partnerships. This collaboration highlights both countries' commitment to advancing water management and sustainability, making a lasting impact worldwide.

Collaborating for sustainable water solutions

The partnership between the Netherlands and Italy offers a unique opportunity to merge innovative technologies with practical solutions for water management. By focusing on key Italian goals—such as improving water distribution, wastewater treatment, and water reuse—this collaboration aims to ensure the sustainable use of water resources.

With the Netherlands' extensive experience in water management and Italy's drive to strengthen its water sector, the partnership will boost water efficiency, optimize infrastructure, and enhance access to clean water. This collaboration fosters knowledge exchange and joint development of solutions to address challenges like water scarcity, while also promoting sustainable energy practices in water systems.

The PIB Watertech2Italy is a public-private partnership within the 'Partners for International Business' programme. It brings together the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Embassy of the Netherlands in Italy (Rome), the Consulate General in Milan, Isle Utilities as the programme coordinator, and Proaxxes as a local liaison. These organizations play a crucial role in fostering local connections and supporting the partnership's success, paving the way for impactful solutions in water management.

Let's take water action!

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Dutch cluster for Watertech2Italy as part of the Partners for International Business (PIB) programme contributes to the achievement of the following sustainable development goals:



SDG 06 | Clean water and sanitation:

By promoting sustainable water management practices, this partnership ensures the availability of clean water and sanitation. It enhances water efficiency, optimises infrastructure, and improves wastewater treatment through the exchange of innovative technologies and expertise. This collaboration helps both countries better manage water resources, reduce waste, and guarantee equitable access to clean water for all.



SDG 09 | Industry, innovation and infrastructure:

Innovation in water technology is being advanced, alongside the strengthening of infrastructure within this partnership. By aligning Dutch expertise with local needs, the collaboration drives the development of resilient, sustainable water systems. Advanced technologies are being promoted to improve infrastructure efficiency and stimulate long-term innovation, paving the way for durable solutions in water management and related industries.



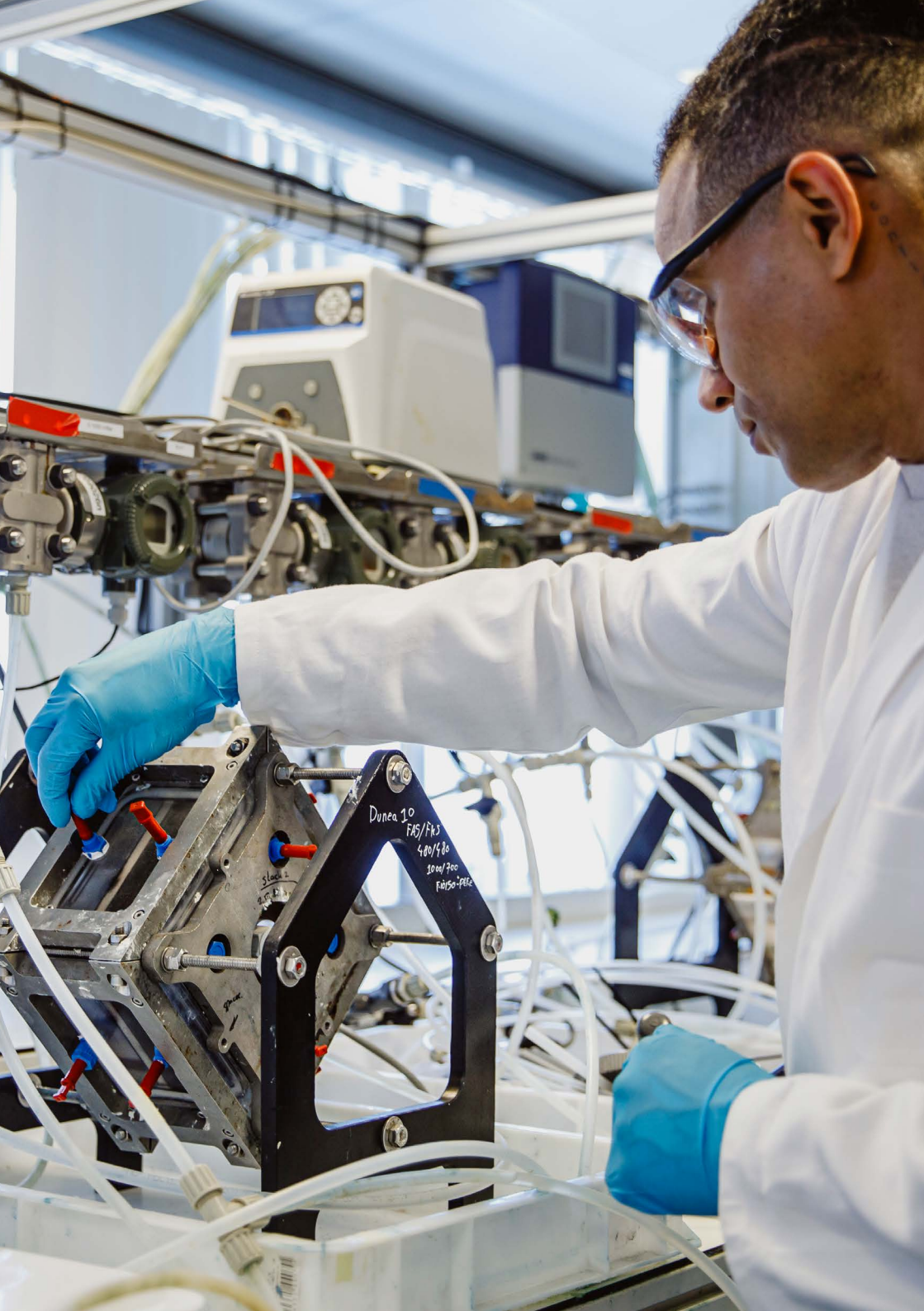
SDG 10 | Reduced inequalities:

Equitable access to clean water and sanitation is a core aim of this partnership. The collaboration ensures that sustainable water management solutions reach all communities, particularly those in underserved areas. By sharing knowledge and expertise, the partnership works to reduce water access disparities, fostering inclusivity and improving the quality of life for everyone.



SDG 17 | Partnerships for the goals:

This PIB strengthens partnerships between the Netherlands and Italy, driving joint solutions for sustainable water management. Through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation, the partnership bolsters global efforts to achieve water and sanitation goals. It exemplifies the impact of international cooperation in addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development.



Coordinator

Isle Utilities B.V. supports over 350 water companies and industrial end-users in driving innovation through strategy implementation and emerging technology adoption. Founded in 2010, Isle focuses on accelerating water sector innovation. They collaborate with leading utilities, provide market intelligence, and enhance commercialisation through peer-to-peer technology assessment.

www.isleutilities.com



Collaborative partner



Water Alliance is a unique partnership of public and private entities, government institutions, and knowledge institutes in the Netherlands, focusing on water technology. It integrates the innovation chain, from R&D to international commercial applications, promoting sustainable, globally applicable solutions and facilitating value-added collaborations in water technology.

www.wateralliance.nl



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Cluster participants



AnDel is a global leader in leak detection, water sustainability, flood defence, and environmental protection systems. Founded in 1992, AnDel offers innovative, cost-effective solutions, exporting worldwide through an international network of distribution partners. With over 30 years of experience, AnDel is committed to a sustainable future.

www.andel.com



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Artesia uses advanced groundwater measurement and modelling to address water management challenges. They focus on predicting climate change impacts on clean water availability for ecology, agriculture, and drinking water. Artesia collaborates with technical universities and Italian companies to provide tools for tackling drought, flooding, and water quality issues.

www.artesia-water.nl



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Cluster participants



HULO, founded in 2021, uses AI-driven technology to detect water anomalies in real-time. It helps utilities reduce water loss by analysing existing infrastructure without needing extensive hardware. HULO offers cost-effective solutions for enhancing water supply sustainability and operational efficiency.

www.hulo.ai



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NX Filtration develops membrane technology to remove micropollutants, bacteria, and viruses from polluted water. Their solutions enable potable water production, wastewater reuse, and efficient treatment. NX Filtration's membranes are ideal for surface water treatment, industrial wastewater reclamation, and microplastic removal.

www.nxfiltration.com



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QM Environmental International B.V., founded in 2000, specializes in environmental biotechnology and provides integrated solutions for pollution challenges in soil, water, and air. The company conducts extensive ongoing research to design and develop innovative bio-reagents and advanced techniques that support global efforts to combat environmental contamination.

www.qmes.eu

www.microaktiv.com



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Samotics offers AI-driven fault detection technology for AC motors and rotating equipment. Their Electrical Signature Analysis (ESA) system helps reduce risk, save energy, and prevent downtime. Samotics serves major water utilities in the UK, preventing catastrophic failures and pollution events.

www.samotics.com



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Cluster participants



Spatial Eye provides spatial applications to optimise access to water, energy, and communication. By integrating spatial data, they help organisations unlock network potential. Their innovative software solutions support clients globally in managing infrastructure effectively.

www.spatial-eye.com



Oscar Custers

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Spatial Insight offers software to optimise decisions on pipe renewal and water network design. They support asset managers with hydraulic calculations, portfolio management, and stakeholder alignment. Their software simplifies complex spatial data for practical use in daily operations.

www.spatial-insight.it



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Let's team up for the future of water!

By working together, we can shape the future of water technology together.

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Watertech Solutions: collaborative water management through expertise and innovation.

Visit our
website here



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water sector
website here

