

## Cutting-edge innovation in the water sector

# Swiss Bluetec Bridge: Financing Swiss innovation to benefit disadvantaged populations



**Region**  
Global

### Partners

Strategos SA (project manager); cewas, Skat (project partners); Swiss start-ups and SMEs

### Background information

3.4 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion lack access to affordable sanitation and hygiene services. New technologies rarely target the bottom base of the social pyramid.

### Project objectives

Facilitating access to affordable water, sanitation and hygiene for the poorest population sections through financing innovative technologies and business models of Swiss start-ups and SMEs.

### Target Groups

- Poor populations in rural areas and small towns in low & middle-income countries
- Local or regional operators & maintenance staff
- Financiers & private investors

### Costs

Budget Phase 2:  
CHF 2,355,000

### Duration

05.2016 – 12.2019

### Contact

Global Programme Water  
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The challenges involving water, sanitation and hygiene are creating opportunities for cutting-edge technological and business model innovation. The Swiss Bluetec Bridge funds innovative Swiss start-ups and SMEs that service poor populations on a commercially viable basis.

Switzerland subsidises technological innovation in the water sector, notably for fundamental and applied research, and the creation of prototypes. New private sources of finance investing in areas with high social, environmental and financial potential are now emerging. Despite this favourable environment, innovative projects often find it difficult to gain sufficient credibility to attract private investors. This is doubly true for technologies that target poor populations.

The Swiss Bluetec Bridge provides interest-free loans to start-ups and SMEs so that they can gain the expertise that will enable them to attract private funds.

### Project portfolio

The companies that entered the Swiss Bluetec Bridge's competition all demonstrated a clear determination to benefit those at the base of the social pyramid and to respect the environment.

#### Swiss Fresh Water SA (SFW) – Safe drinking water in rural Senegal

SFW delivers a low-cost, easy to use, simple to maintain and energy efficient method for desalinating salty or brackish water. In early 2017, SFW was supplying over 120,000 persons daily through their water kiosks in Senegal.

#### Weconnex AG – Water Enterprise Development Nepal

Weconnex tested different business models with solar powered water purification units to treat arsenic-contaminated groundwater in rural Nepal. In early 2017, the company has installed 7 basic infrastructure hubs that provide clean water and other services in Chitwan and Nawalparasi.

#### NVTerra SA – Quality drinking water for Addah Village, Ivory Coast

NVTerra has delivered a pilot water treatment unit based on filtration and electrolysis in Addah village. The plant is treating insalubrious water from a well, to be sold at affordable prices through village fountains and ergonomic cans.

#### AquaNetto Group GmbH – Water kiosks for northern Kenya

Through the installation of water purification kiosks, AquaNetto intends to deliver clean water sustainably to improve the health and increase the overall standard of living of the population.

#### Swiss Intech Sarl – Pumpex for more efficient water supply

Swiss Intech's goal is to develop a market in the DR of Congo for its innovative solar pump through a network of local partners. The pump reduces water usage and fuel consumption, and the objective is to half the price of water supply.

#### ennos AG – sunlight pump for smallholder farmers

The vision of ennos is to supply a high quality product and make it accessible to and affordable for small-holder farmers, offering extensive support and after sales services to the customers to guarantee a productive use of the technology for many years.

#### Sterilux SA – Medical sterilisation for rural and small-sized hospitals

The company's goal is to commercialise a more affordable and water-saving device to sterilize medical instruments to reduce mortality and hospital-acquired infections, preventing infections and saving lives.

#### Fontes GmbH – African Fountain: water service delivery as social business

Fontes provides water service delivery where it is needed at the right quality, quantity and price in the DR of Congo, through taking over and operating existing schemes and a modular infrastructure.

#### ECyTech GmbH – Affordable monitoring of multiple water quality indicators in rural Vietnam

The company commercialises a no-frills monitoring device to allow decentralised and frequent monitoring of water quality to improve the long term health and livelihood of rural communities in Vietnam.



Additional information  
[www.swissbluetecbridge.ch](http://www.swissbluetecbridge.ch)