

world water

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Field Notes



Austria

WIG Wietersdorfer Holding GmbH and Saudi Arabian Amiantit Company plan to merge their European pipe businesses HOBAS Europe and Amiantit Europe, including FLOWTITE Technology. Both companies specialize in the production of high performance plastic pipe systems.

HOBAS and Amiantit Europe each specialize in distinct systems, centrifugally cast (HOBAS) and continuous filament wound pipe systems (Amiantit). The production of pipes, which are primarily used for drinking water, irrigation, wastewater, hydro-power, and industry, will continue in Germany, Austria, Spain, Poland, and Romania. Research and development will continue in Sandefjord, Norway and Wietersdorf, Austria. Company headquarters for the combined business will be in Klagenfurt, Austria.



France

The UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) launched its Water Information Network System (WINS) on January 31, 2017, at UNESCO

headquarters in Paris. The aim of WINS is to provide UNESCO member states with an open source, open access, web-based platform aimed at becoming a global reference for decision-makers and stakeholders on water-related issues at all levels. In particular, WINS will support the design and implementation of operations, management, and decision making for sound governance. WINS will provide:

- Georeferenced data (GIS) on the state of water resources at the global, regional, national, and local level, allowing users to visualize and generate maps
- A platform for inter-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders
- A platform for water-related stakeholders to build social networks and interrelations.

WINS was established to help member states build their institutional capacities, human resources, and a sound basis in science capacity for the monitoring and implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) and other water-related goals.



Germany

Berlin-based akvola Technologies,

a water technology company that specializes in removing oils and suspended solids from hard-to-treat industrial effluents, announced on December 14, 2016, that it is partnering with the Japanese technology trading company, CBC Group. The new partner enables akvola to accelerate the commercialization of its akvoFloat™ water treatment systems in the Asian market, where CBC Group has a strong sales organization. The akvoFloat system treats complex industrial wastewater with customers such as ThyssenDrupp, Total, and Siemens, according to CBC Europe's CEO Frank Höfer.



Malaysia

The Malaysian renewable energy company Green & Smart Holdings plc, which generates power from biogas captured through the treatment of palm oil mill effluent in Malaysia, reports that it has raised US\$1.14 million by issuing new shares to Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Sdn Bhd, a government-run company established to support the commercialization of technology in Malaysia.

Green & Smart Holdings completed its first plant, the 2-megawatt (mW) Kahang Biogas plant located in the state of Johor

in September 2016. It has since become an independent power producer and is exporting energy to the national grid. Another biogas plant, the 2-mW Malpom Plant in Nibong Tebal, Penang, was completed in October. The proceeds will be used to provide additional working capital for the development of Green & Smart's pipeline of biogas projects.



USA

McElroy, a US manufacturer of pipe fusion machines, and the Israeli irrigation company, Netafim joined forces to meet the demand for high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline solutions serving the irrigation industry and the growing opportunities in potable water and natural gas.

McElroy was recently the featured equipment manufacturer at Netafim's Open House, which debuted the expansion of Netafim's HDPE fusion equipment business. Netafim also sent representatives to McElroy's headquarters in the US state of Oklahoma to take fusion operator courses at McElroy University, which also offers training in troubleshooting, maintenance, and inspection.

Milestones

The international non-profit organization Water Footprint Network appointed **Dr.**

Christopher Briggs as its new executive director, effective on February 27, 2017. Dr. Briggs is a sustainable development professional with more than 25 years of experience in ecosystem management and climate change. Over the last ten years, he has acted as Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, worked as Environmental Practice Leader for Latin America and the Caribbean for United Nations Development Programme, and

served as Head of Operations and Policy for the Global Environment Facility.

The current executive director, Ms. Ruth Mathews will step down after 6 years of leading the network. Chair of the Water Footprint Network Supervisory Board, Professor Arjen Hoekstra says of Ms. Mathews' efforts, "As a result of her leadership and great team efforts, Dr. Briggs will take on an effective organization that will make a significant contribution toward sustainable development in coming years."

The Water Footprint Network provides science-based, practical solutions, and strategic insights that help transform the way companies, governments, individuals, and small-scale producers use and share fresh water.

Chris Loughlin, chief executive of the Pennon Group Plc, owner of South West Water and Viridor, has accepted the position of chairman of the board at British Water. He will be replacing Tony Williams, who has served in the position for 18 months. British Water is the lead representative and business development organization for the

water supply chain of the UK water industry.

Mr. Loughlin began his career in consulting and contracting before becoming a chartered civil engineer. He was formerly the chief operating officer for Lloyd's Register, executive director of British Nuclear Fuels, and executive chairman of Magnox Electric. He was also a senior diplomat in the British Embassy in Tokyo. A former chairman of Water UK, Chris Loughlin is past president of the Institute of Water and is on the Board of Trustees for WaterAid.