

Vitens invests in real time monitoring of drinking water
Joint program for introducing Optiqua's real-time sensors in Vitens distribution grid.

- Joint program announced to introduce real-time monitoring systems to detect full spectrum of possible contaminants in drinking water
- Expected results will improve reliability of drinking water supply
- Net worth initial contract: 1 million euros

Singapore/Utrecht, 1 July 2010. The introduction of real-time monitoring systems to detect the full spectrum of possible contaminants in drinking water made a leap forward today. During the Singapore International Water Week Vitens (the largest drinking water supplier of the Netherlands) and Singapore based Optiqua announced a ground breaking deal to join forces in developing sensor technology with this aim.

Easier way to monitor water quality

Monitoring drinking water quality is a major concern to drinking water suppliers, and is often guarded by strict rules and government regulations. Currently, drinking water companies have to take elaborate steps to monitor the water quality inside the water production and distribution facilities using decentralized laboratories. The joint program of Optiqua and Vitens is aimed at developing an sensor system inside the water distribution. This will provide Vitens with easy real-time information on the current water quality. If the system detects unwanted contaminants it will help the drinking water company to react swiftly to these kind of threats.

Combining knowledge

"I am excited about this collaboration. By combining existing knowledge we will be able to develop a new usable tool for Vitens and other drinking water companies in detecting contaminations swiftly and respond accordingly," comments prof. dr. ir. Walter van der Meer, member of Vitens' executive board, on the deal. "At Vitens we want our customers to trust the water we supply them with. If we can respond more swiftly to contaminations, it will help us to keep the trust our customers have in our water. Therefore Vitens plans to implement real time sensor technology into our grid as soon as possible." Vitens currently has a testing system operating in a pilot plant environment.

High density monitoring network

"Vitens is among the first to invest in real-time monitoring of drinking water and proves to be a real industry leader in innovation. Vitens and our other launching partner PUB in Singapore give us the opportunity for a large scale introduction of our sensor networks" , comments Jos-Willem Verhoef, Managing Director at Optiqua. "We are delighted to work with Vitens, and we are looking forward to expand our fruitful collaboration in the next few years. We are convinced that Optiqua and Vitens will provide the global water sector with economically viable networks providing security for the entire distribution grid."

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Notice to the editor

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About Optiqua

Optiqua is a provider of leading optical biosensor technology for the real-time detection of contaminants in water. The company is based in The Netherlands and Singapore and the recipient of the 2009 Asia Pacific Frost & Sullivan New Product Innovation Award for its water contamination detection and sensing technology. Optiqua works closely with reputable research institutes and public organisations in Singapore, and a range of leading international industry partners.

About Vitens

Vitens is the largest drinking water supplier in the Netherlands. It delivers top notch drinking water to 5.4 million people in the Netherlands, over a third of the country's population. The publicly held company currently employs 1,700 people, runs 100 water production facilities and has a grid of 47,500 kilometers long. Annually the company distributes 350 million m³ of water with a net revenue of 450 million euros. Vitens shares are 100 per cent held by local and regional governments.