Welcome to WRc’s Autumn 2013 Newsletter

Our newsletter coincides with a critical moment in the evolution of the UK water sector. I am of course talking about the need to get the PR14 business plans into Ofwat by early December. These business plans will be different because they will have been subjected to challenge by customers for the first time. There will also be a dedicated section on innovation - all very interesting and greatly encouraging for those of us who want to see a dynamic, innovative sector.

Whilst awaiting the resulting Ofwat determinations at WRc, we have been exploring what research and innovations are urgently needed to enable water companies to start AMP6 with a bang. At our Innovation Day last April, we held workshops on key Customer Zero Targets, with action plans to deliver against these ambitious targets. The action plans are now available on our website and will continue to help deliver against the key milestones.

We are very proud of the July 2013 Portfolio of collaborative research where we have linked projects offered to desired customer outcomes. We also offered projects aimed at the Gas distribution sector for the first time. The whole brochure also has a new look and feel which has been well received.

This newsletter contains information on many different topics from the launch of a new publication on sewer condition (MSCC5) through information about Smart Distribution Management to Virtual Operator Training Tools. We are very proud to be the first UK accredited verification body for the European ETV scheme. This scheme will help accelerate the uptake of innovative technologies in the environmental sector. Something that is dear to our hearts! If you have an innovative technology that you want to get in front of your customers, this maybe the scheme for you. The future events section gives details of a free introductory workshop in November.

Finally, a date for your diary – the next WRc innovation Day is set for 30th April 2014. If you have something innovative, a technology, idea, process or methodology, please get in touch, we want to showcase it for you. If the past 2 events are anything to go by, we will have a fantastic audience, thought-provoking speakers, informative research tours as well as great catering. The admission is free (see the link below for details).

Mark Smith, Managing Director

Research

Here, at WRc, we have been looking at different potential futures through the use of pictures. Our latest collaborative Portfolio brochure illustrates this work. We believe that any future must be based on what the customer requires and the 18 new projects for the water industry reflect this. We have also introduced a small number of gas sector projects showing the synergies between the two industries.

Latest News
New Publication - Manual of Sewer Condition Classification 5th Edition (MSCC) Released. Updated to incorporate revised British Standards and the move to digital storage of sewer data, this new publication provides a national benchmark for classifying sewer condition. The MSCC will be essential for those managing sewer and highway drainage systems to classify defects in sewers in a standard way and ensure investment in the UK public sewers and lateral drains is carried out cost effectively. This new manual can be ordered now.

Determining the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Maintenance Expenditure. With water utilities in England and Wales in the thick of finalising their business plans for PR14, WRC’s completed Portfolio project developed a simple framework which companies can follow to ensure that correct data are captured for effectiveness and efficiency assessment.

Managing Metaldehyde in Drinking Water - UKWIR project evaluates strategies for controlling metaldehyde in drinking water and the role of catchment management in managing the risk.

Rainwater Harvesting & Grey Water Recycling - A Solution to Increased Demand and Flood Alleviation? - WRC is working with 5 water companies to examine all of the issues and provide evidence for a proactive way forward.

WRC gets Smart(er) - New Project on Real-Time Distribution Management - With the University of Manchester, WRC is developing a Portfolio collaborative project to facilitate and accelerate the move to true, real-time water distribution management.

WRC-Led Consortium Delivering 5 service contracts under EC Freshwater Policy Framework - To help development and implementation of EU Freshwater policies.

New On-Line Inspection Tool for Sewer Rising Mains - Enables condition assessment whilst the rising main is in service and allows the location of specific features to be identified.

Pollution Enquiries Contract Extended - The 24/7 enquiry service continues to provide support to the Environment Agency on the toxicology, ecotoxicology and fate and behaviour of chemicals in the environment.

Water & Wastewater Operator Training in a Virtual Environment - New implementation packages for the award winning computer-simulation tools.

BP Award Contract for Water Disposal/Water Reuse Strategy in Egypt - WRC is working with BP to investigate options for water reuse in Egypt.

Future Events

ETV Workshop - 5th November 2013 (Swindon) - WRC will be holding a 2nd Workshop on EU Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) - What and Why? on the 5th November 2013 at our office in Swindon. The event is free to attend and will give delegates further information about the benefits of this scheme. For further information or to reserve your place - click here.

Essentials for Managing Drain Repair Course - 4th & 5th March 2014 (Swindon) - The next two-day Essentials for
Managing Drain Repair takes place next March at WRc's office in Swindon (date tbc). The course is now Energy and Utility Skills accredited and each successful delegate receives an officially recognised certificate to show their professional competency in Drain Repair Management. Each delegate will also be registered on the EU Skills Register of Professional Training. [Click here to view the Agenda.]

Contact Martine Gibbons at martine.gibbons@wrcplc.co.uk or +44 (0)1793 865056 for further information.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS - WRc Open Innovation Day 2014 - A date for your diaries**

We will be holding our Annual Open Innovation Day 2014 on the 30th April 2014 in Swindon. The theme for 2014 will be "Value for Customers through Innovation". If you would like more information, please email pr@wrcplc.co.uk or [click here to register].

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**Past Events**

**Open Innovation Day 2013 - Workshop Outputs  Innovation through Collaboration**

One of the targets from the 2013 Innovation Day was to harness the knowledge and energy of over 200 delegates in the building through the various workshops. The facilitators and their teams encouraged everyone to get involved and display their artistic talent by drawing a picture of how the world could/would look if we could achieve the workshop themes of Zero Food Wasted, Zero Leakage, Zero Excavations and Zero Pollution Incidents. These pictures have now been combined and drawn professionally and are available to view on the WRc website. We have also held a joint workshop on Zero Leakage and Zero Excavations and will be organising a further workshop on Zero Food Wasted during the Autumn - Watch this space!

**ETV Workshops (Swindon) Photographs from the Event**

WRc recently held the First UK Workshop on “EU Environmental Technology Verification - What and Why”. The workshop was attended by around 60 delegates who were keen to hear about the benefits of this scheme in verifying claims of new innovation and associated environmental benefits. [View ETV information]. We have also just released the next workshop date - 5th November 2013 (also see our Future Events section).

**Joint Workshops on Zero Leakage and Zero Excavations (Swindon)**

A targeted group of delegates from the water industry, researchers and the supply chain joined us during September to consider six themes emerging from the WRc 2013 Open Innovation Day. The output from this workshop will be posted on our website soon.

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**Current Vacancies**

Are you looking for an opportunity to take your career to the next level in a varied and challenging sphere, offering the potential for rapid and stimulating professional and personal development? If you are then WRc is THE place for you.

Our emphasis on forward thinking has attracted the brightest industry minds, allowing them to thrive and create breakthrough solutions that deliver a competitive advantage to our customers.

[View our current vacancies]