Q&A
Ask your questions via Sli.do/discovery163
What we'll cover today

1. The Water Discovery Challenge
2. Spotlight: The fund award and mentoring package
3. Spotlight: Eligibility and assessment criteria
4. Spotlight: The entry process
5. Live Q&A
The Water Discovery Challenge
Aims, themes and the Innovator Journey
We created a new Challenge because:

- We need a water system that **works for everyone**
- We are looking for **fresh solutions** to **urgent challenges**
- We want to draw on the **knowledge and ingenuity** from other sectors

Submit your questions at slido.com #discovery163
Why Discovery?

Accelerate the discovery, development and adoption of promising innovations by the water sector in England and Wales.

Directly support organisations with innovative propositions and facilitate their engagement with water companies in England and Wales.

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1. Responding and adapting to climate change including achieving the sector ambitions of net zero carbon, zero waste and zero leakage

2. Protecting and enhancing the environment and natural systems to protect current and future customers from the impacts of extreme weather and pollution

3. Delivering long-term operational resilience and understanding infrastructure risks to customers and the environment, finding solutions to mitigate these in sustainable and efficient ways

4. Testing new ways of conducting core activities to deliver the services customers and society need, expect and value both now and in the future

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## Water Discovery Challenge

### The Innovator Journey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18-month Challenge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry Period</td>
<td>Entries will be open for ten weeks, with a range of webinars available to support you to learn about the water sector and enter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 January 2023 to 5 April 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalist Selection</td>
<td>Up to 20 Finalists will be announced by the end of June 2023. Finalists are awarded with funding of up to £50,000 and a 5-month package of support, including mentoring from water companies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April to June 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalists Stage</td>
<td>Finalists should expect to receive payment of funds in July 2023.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July to November 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winner Selection</td>
<td>Up to 10 Winners will be announced in end of February 2024. Winners are awarded funding of up to £450,000 and a 7-month package of support, including mentoring from water companies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2023 to January 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winners Stage</td>
<td>Winners should expect to receive their first payment of funds in February 2024.</td>
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<td>February 2024 to August 2024</td>
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Spotlight
The fund award and mentoring package
(What you can win)
Finalist Stage: Funding award

Up to 20 teams of the most promising innovators will be awarded £50,000 to develop their innovation, with a range of expert support and access to mentoring from water companies.

100% of the project cost can be covered by the award.

The funds can only be used to support reasonable costs related to developing the innovation, as described in Entry Form question 3.1.

The Finalist stage funds must be spent between July 2023 and the beginning of the Winner’s Award stage in January 2024.

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In the Finalist stage, mentors will be allocated randomly.

Mentors will work directly with Finalists, providing:

- bespoke support and guidance
- feedback on Finalists' innovations and demand within the sector
- insights into the water sector
- signposting to other stakeholders or useful resources.

Finalists will receive support to strengthen and accelerate the development of their innovation.

A key part of this will be the water sector-led mentoring programme, with allocation of a mentor from a regional water or wastewater company in England and Wales.

At the end of the Challenge, successful entrants will have worked directly with the water companies for ~12 months, accelerating the development of their innovation and increasing the potential for adoption.

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Spotlight
The entry form, eligibility and assessment criteria
(What we are looking for)
What we are looking for

Innovations of any kind: process, people, technology or digital that are ready for concept proofing, testing, early feasibility studies, development and verification in the water sector.

Specifically, Innovation Maturity Level 2-3, equivalent to TRL 3-6.

Innovation that will benefit customers, society and the environment across England and Wales in alignment with the four innovation themes.

Initiatives from all sectors and all types of organisations, domestic or international.

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Eligibility Criteria

To be able to enter, your organisation must comply to the following requirements:

- Be a UK incorporated entity
- Hold a UK business bank account upon entry
- Comply with the terms and conditions
- Not be a regional water or wastewater company in England and Wales

I’m a university. Can I enter?

- **Maybe** – check your legal status.

I’m a water retailer or small water company (NAV) in England and Wales. Can I enter?

- **Yes**.

I’m already working with a water company on another project. Can I enter?

- **Yes**, if you comply with the eligibility requirements.

Still not sure if you are eligible?

1. Check with your Legal team.
2. Get in touch at waterinnovation@challengeworks.org

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1. Positive impact for water customers, society, and the environment
2. Innovation enablers and innovative solutions
3. Capacity, capability, and commitment to deliver
4. Ability to succeed, to be sustainable and/or gain wide adoption across the water sector

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Positive impact for water customers, society, and the environment
(40%, 40 points available)

Assessors will be looking to understand the following:

• Does the innovation address a relevant need for the water sector in England and Wales?
• Does the innovation have the potential to deliver positive benefit for customers, society and/or the environment?
• Does the innovation have the potential to deliver impact against one (or more) of the four Ofwat strategic innovation themes?

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The Assessment Criteria

Innovation enablers and innovative solutions
(20%, 20 points available)

Assessors will be looking to understand the following:

- Is the innovation new for the water sector in England and Wales?
- Is the innovation better than current alternatives?
Capacity, capability, and commitment to deliver
(20%, 20 points available)

Assessors will be looking to understand the following:

- The delivery team’s **experience, skills and capabilities**.
- The **timeline and delivery plan** envisioned by the team
- **How the team will spend the funds** awarded should they be successful.

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Ability to succeed, to be sustainable and/or gain wide adoption across the water sector (20%, 20 points available)

Assessors will be looking to understand the following:

• Is the innovation likely to be feasible and viable with the water sector?
• Is the innovation technically possible and does it have the potential to be financially sustainable?
• Does the innovation have the potential to be widely adopted across the water sector in England and Wales?
Spotlight
The entry process
(How to enter and the support available)
Entries must be submitted using the online entry form in **Submittable**

The entry form can be saved as a draft before submitting

All entries must be submitted by **5 April 2023 at 12 noon (BST)**
Support for your entry

Discovery webinar series
From an introduction to the water sector and opportunities for innovation, to water and sewage treatment and distribution, reusing resources, delivering for customers and climate change challenge.

Entry clinic
Support on your entry, the entry process and innovator journey

Online and downloadable materials
Innovator Handbook, Entry Form Questions, FAQs...

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What happens after you submit your entry?

Eligibility Screening

1. Does the entry show the potential to deliver positive impact across the water sector in England and Wales?
2. Is the entry innovative within the water sector in England and Wales?
3. Does the entry show potential to be viable within the water sector in England and Wales?

Assessment

Sector Review and Due Diligence

Feedback

Finalists’ Announcement and Award

June 2023

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