

Innovative cutting-edge water technology

Vitens aims to be the leading water company in the Netherlands, a company occupying the number one position in public water supply in the Netherlands and actively engaging in the supply of industrial water and in international water projects.

Knowledge centre

Vitens Water Technology is the company's knowledge centre, in which we pool all our knowledge and experience covering the entire water supply process. Vitens Water Technology is responsible for the development and implementation of strategy and policy relating to the water infrastructure and the various areas of water technology and expertise. It is our ambition to grow into the centre of knowledge and expertise for the water industry.

Contacts

Vitens Water Technology maintains close contacts not only with research and knowledge institutions in the Netherlands and in other countries, such as KWR, TNO, universities and engineering consultants and other consultancy firms, but also with bodies like provincial authorities, water boards, nature organisations and agricultural organisations.

Vitens Water Technology is active in the following sectors:

Water resources

Ensuring an adequate supply of good water extraction sites, both now and in the future.

Process technology

Design of water treatment systems; primary process optimisation; industrial water supply.

Laboratory

State-of-the-art techniques to enable careful quality control from source to tap.

Asset management

Decision planning and costing.

Projects

Design and construction of production assets. All sectors: international projects.

Water resources

Vitens uses groundwater as the source of water supplies as a matter of policy. The job of Vitens Water Technology is to ensure ample reliable sources of water for both immediate and future needs. Our efforts accordingly focus on securing water extraction sites and developing new production locations. Vitens manages water abstraction areas extending to around 2,500 ha. The aim of our approach to abstraction area management is to obtain the maximum beneficial use of the land, preferably in combination with functions such as agriculture, nature conservation and recreation. In this endeavour we work closely with provincial authorities, water boards, agricultural organisations and nature organisations, with Vitens performing a managerial role on their behalf.

Process technology

Vitens also aims to give direction to innovation and to the development of knowledge in the water industry. Above all, we see the process technology involved in the treatment of water supplies as a core competency. The discipline includes controlling, monitoring and optimising of the primary process (extraction, treatment and distribution of drinking water), involving around a hundred company-operated production plants and a network of water mains extending to 47,500 km.

These days, Vitens makes extensive use of membrane filtration and even more innovative treatment technologies in addition to conventional treatment methods. We pilot new technologies, carry out engineering projects and provide consultancy services. Efficient knowledge management means we can make our water treatment and distribution expertise available to third parties, such as industrial undertakings which are heavy users of water. Our expertise is therefore not confined to public water supplies but also covers waste water and the supply of process water.

In partnership with the water company Evides we put our knowledge and experience to use on international water projects and in providing consultancy services. Projects are currently ongoing in Ghana, Mozambique, Yemen and Suriname among other countries.

Asset management

With 2.3 million customers to look after, with annual revenues of € 475 million and with sales of 330 million m³ of water a year, we at Vitens are faced with numerous major and minor decisions all the time. Vitens Water Technology is responsible

for ensuring not only that the right decisions are taken but also that they are implemented as efficiently as possible. This necessitates careful costing and planning. Asset management is a balancing act involving costs, technical resources, production management, the interests of customers and environmental considerations. The object is to minimise the lifetime cost of the infrastructure.

Projects

Vitens Water Technology designs and constructs production assets for water extraction, treatment and distribution. This work is carefully planned, using a Vitens-wide project approach. Projects range from building new production plants or expanding existing ones to alleviating local capacity restrictions in the water supply system or making an automated process more efficient, for example by standardisation.

Laboratory: modern and innovative

Vitens' laboratory in Leeuwarden is the most advanced water laboratory in Western Europe. It is here that water samples are analysed. Vitens controls the quality of the water supply all the way from source to tap. The Vitens laboratory is determined to retain their lead and accordingly focus strongly on innovation.

Our ultramodern laboratory features automated systems for testing water samples. This method makes the Vitens laboratory unique and highly efficient. The laboratory has substantial capacity: it processes around 600 samples and 2,500 bottles a day.

Vitens uses the most sophisticated laboratory equipment and innovative systems, some of which have been developed in-house. This includes systems for rapidly detecting legionella and for measuring minute quantities of drugs in water.

Vitens also performs analyses for numerous swimming pools, companies, consultancies and institutions, such as testing for the presence of legionella bacteria and producing analyses of mineral water, process water or industrial water.

Largest water company

Vitens supplies water of a quality ranking among the best in the world to 5.4 million consumers and businesses in the provinces of Flevoland, Friesland, Gelderland, Utrecht, Overijssel and a number of municipalities in Drenthe and Noord-Holland. This makes Vitens the largest water company in the Netherlands.

