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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2019 12:48
To: waterstories
Subject: Innovation – Delivering for Customers, Society and the Environment

Dear strategy team,

I am writing in support of the document “Innovation – Delivering for Customers, Society and the Environment” put together by Trevor Bishop in collaboration with several of us in the sector. I have long argued for a more substantial, proactive and inclusive approach to innovation in the water industry. We see this expressed internationally (in the Netherlands for example) but not in England & Wales, which has historically had limited common-voice research (UKWIR) and piecemeal approaches from companies, institutions and researchers such as ourselves.

The university sector has been increasingly active in promoting and indeed delivering this approach, but more needs to be done. For example, I am the Director of the Engineering & Physical Sciences-funded WISE (Water Informatics Science & Engineering) Centre for Doctoral Training. This trains and supervises PhD students in research methods and wider commercial skills, and delivers industry relevant research. Many of the individual projects are co-supervised and co-funded by companies and the CDT as a whole has an active industry-led Advisory Group. A further example is the TWENTY 65 project of which I am a co-investigator, which was specifically designed to embrace the innovation culture, engage proactively across the water sector and be responsive to industrial needs.

For my own part, I am very happy to continue to support this initiative and would welcome further involvement to take the concept through to reality.

Regards,
David

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