

Start-up companies from the IT sector are sought to implement the optimization and automation of conspicuity analysis at discharge sections of rainwater treatment plants

- **SCHEDA**
- **APPROFONDIMENTI**

Identificativo proposta: TRDE20200616002

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The largest German wastewater disposal company and operator of sewage treatment plants is looking for a solution in the area of image recognition and artificial intelligence (AI) to automate the conspicuity analysis on discharge sections of rainwater treatment plants and to optimise processes. As this technology request refers to an innovation challenge for start-up companies, only start-ups are sought for technical cooperation agreements.

The German company is the largest wastewater disposal company and operator of sewage treatment plants in Germany. Their tasks include rainwater treatment. Basically, precipitation leads to a mixture of rainwater and wastewater, which together form so-called "mixed water". If a certain limit value of mixed water is exceeded, a so-called discharge situation occurs, which leads to the mixed water being fed into rainwater treatment plants via discharge routes. The problem here is that the mixed water contains other substances in addition to rainwater and wastewater, which can settle at the point of discharge of the process and can even cause damage there. Thus the company is obliged to check the condition of the discharge points after each precipitation and to carry out an assessment based on specified criteria. At the moment, this is done manually, with employees driving to the appropriate discharge points after each precipitation situation. In order to speed up and automate this process of evaluation, the German company is looking for a solution to automate this process. A partner with expertise in the field of image recognition and associated artificial intelligence (AI), which can recognize the inventory of the discharge points on the basis of images and evaluate them accordingly is sought. The goal is to significantly reduce the number of assignments for manual status recording and evaluation by employees. The German company is looking to cooperate with a start-up company that would like to take on this challenge in the framework of a technical cooperation. The solution can be adjusted jointly. The German company will provide appropriate image material as well as a catalogue of criteria for evaluating the condition as part of the challenge procedure. **IMPORTANT:** This technology request refers to an innovation challenge published on an open internet platform that was issued by a major city in North Rhine-Westphalia. If a start-up expresses an interest before the closing date of 15 August, it will be guided towards this open innovation platform. The start-up company takes part in the challenge with this application. If it is selected, it will be invited to spend five working days in workshops with the company on a solution concept as well as in training workshops on the German market and on market entry to the regional ecosystem. All submissions will get feedback from the German company on this open platform. The challenge closes on August 15, 2020. Mind that posts on this platform are not confidential. Beside open discussions on the platform, sharing of confidential information will be made possible on demand. After that, the firm will select the start-ups with whom they would like to cooperate in the development of a solution.

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