



PRESS RELEASE

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# WEX GLOBAL AWARDS FOR INNOVATION IN WATER & ENERGY ANNOUNCED IN VALENCIA

5th March 2020

Inspirational human innovation was the overall winner at the **WEX Global Awards 2020** for water and energy innovation, announced at a ceremony at Valencia's Oceanogràfic on **4 March**, which toasted the success of water companies across the world for their efforts in facilitating urgent circular economy measures to protect the planet.

The lucky victors on the night – which formed part of the three-day **WEX Global 2020** conference at the **Oceanogràfic** aquarium complex in **Valencia, Spain** – included companies active in Dubai, the USA, the UK, Ireland, Jamaica, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Portugal. Their award-winning work spanned areas ranging from solar desalination, to wastewater reclamation, non-revenue water reduction, and the transformation of seawater into valuable resources. **John Z. Bentley**, Executive Partner & Water Sector Leader at IBM Services gave the keynote speech, on the connected future.

There were eight awards categories in total, and the winners were chosen from shortlists by the event's seven judges: **Oliver Grievson** (Z-Tech), **Gaëtane Suzenet** (International Impact Partners), **Miguel Angel Ayllon** (Idrica), **Lila Thompson** (British Water), **Frank Rogalla** (FCC Aqualia), **Ryan Welsh** (City of Cincinnati) and **Leon Awerbuch** (International Desalination Association). An additional award for Circular Economy was selected by **WEX Global** and **Idrica**, the main sponsor. One more award was presented to the winner of the **Innovations Forum sponsored by Aqualia**, this having a different panel of judges presided over by **Frank Rogalla, Director of Innovation & Technology** at Aqualia..

The winners on the night, for innovation in each of the following categories were as follows:

- **Process Technology:** *Desolenator* for Solar Desalination project in Dubai
  - **Water & Energy:** *APG-Neuros* for the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Denver, Colorado, USA
  - **Water and/or Wastewater Management:** *CAMBI* for the Basingstoke (UK) Sewage Treatment Works
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- **Operations:** SCUBIC Technology in Aveiro, Portugal
- **Infrastructure:** Miya & Jamaica National Water Commission, KSA NRW Reduction Co-Management Program
- **Technology:** DuPont OxyMem Drop-in MABR Modules Enhance Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity - global applications
- **Finance/Partnerships:** Saudi Water Partnership for the Dammam Independent Sewage Treatment Project, Dammam, KSA
- **Desalination:** Acciona for DREAMER: Environmentally-friendly Desalination System Concept; Transforming Seawater into Valuable Resources, Spain

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The **WEX Global & IDRIKA Circular Economy Water Award 2020** went to **Uganda's National Water & Sewage Corporation**, and the **Aqualia Award for Innovations 2020** went to **Desolenator** for Desolenator Solar Desalination, Dubai.

Other companies shortlisted for the awards included **Perceptive Engineering, Drylet, SUEZ, MobyGIS, Utico, INLOC Robotics, Vienna Water Monitoring Solutions, Deer Technology,** and the **Centre for Water Systems at the University of Exeter.**

Judge Gaëtane Suzenet said it was “an honour” to be part of the WEX Global Awards. “Congratulations to all the winners for bringing new heights to the European water and energy innovation landscape! The path of innovation is always tough and those who take the challenge should be rewarded.”

William Janssen, CEO of Desolenator, winner both of the Process Technology and Innovations awards, said Team Desolenator was “overjoyed” about the award of two prizes for their work on sustainable seawater desalination. “We want to share our continued commitment to WEX as the leading platform within the Water and Energy nexus. See you at WEX 2021!”

Further quotes from Awards winners and judges follow:-

**Omar Hammoud, CEO & President, APG-Neuros - Winner of the WEX Award for Innovation in Water & Energy for the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Denver, Colorado, USA:**

*“This is awesome news - we feel great to be part of WEX Global 2020. We are grateful and honored to be recognized and owe this recognition to the City of Denver for partnering with us to introduce our 1MW (1400 HP) Turbo Blower at their wastewater treatment plant, a game-changer for wastewater treatment aeration systems around the world. This win represents a positive nod from our customers across the global water community as we continue to be the market leader. We are committed to bringing in new products and transforming our industry, even more than over the past 15 years. We*

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*promise our customers that we will continue to bring them energy-efficient equipment to help them accomplish their climate action goals and reduce their operating cost. We also promise them to continue to evolve the ways of doing business to be most responsive to their needs and help them be more efficient.”*

**Bruno Abreu, Executive Director, SCUBIC - Winner of the WEX Award for Innovation in Operations:**

*“Winning the WEX Award for ‘Innovation in Operations’ was very important for SCUBIC: we are still a young company, trying to enter one of the most closed and innovation-adverse markets in the world. Exposure and this prize helps water utilities to recognise our value and see that advanced, innovative solutions can be applied to water management to reduce costs and carbon emissions, and manage our water sources more sustainably. An international prize shows that we are solving a worldwide problem that needs to be addressed, and that we have the knowledge and the tools to do it.”*

**Gonzalo Zamacois, Head of Marketing & Communications, Miya - Winner of the WEX Award for Innovation in Infrastructure:**

*“We were delighted that our work in Jamaica was recognised by this prestigious Award. We feel the project represents Miya’s and the Jamaican National Water Commission’s commitment to promote efficiency and excellence, through close collaboration between the private and public sector.”*

**Judge Oliver Grievson of Z-Tech / WIPAC commented:**

*“Given a future in which water resources become a global problem, especially considering the need to deliver the 6th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which concentrates on water and sanitation for all, desalination is part of the solution to the world’s problems and projects such as DREAMER project by Acciona, which makes desalination more sustainable by lowering energy costs and recovering products, are surely part of the world’s future.”*

**Acciona’s DREAMER entry won the ‘Innovation in Desalination’ category**

**Judge Miguel Ángel Ayllón of main sponsor, Idrica commented:**

*“It was difficult to make a decision about the best project in each category, because of the high level across the board. But in some way sustainability was the axis on which most entries were focused, which is aligned with what society expects from the leading companies of the water sector.”*

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**About WEX Global**

**WEX Global 2020 – the Water & Energy Exchange, occupies a unique place in the water**

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conference calendar. Business meetings and conversations lie at the heart of **WEX**, along with the principle of 'exchange'; the exchange of ideas and philosophies, of business cards, of solutions, and of methodologies, to form strong networks on which to build stronger relationships. The event plays host to more than 80 speakers, from 40+ countries, who debate critical issues relating to "Delivering Smart Circular Solutions for a more Sustainable World. The main conference event usually takes place each year in March, in Spain or Portugal.

Visit [wex-global.com](https://wex-global.com) to learn more

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