

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A WATER INDUSTRY GROUP TO DEVELOP STANDARDS, PROTOCOLS AND GUIDANCE ON THE SELECTION, INSTALLATION AND ON-GOING OPERATION OF CONTINUOUS WATER MONITORING DEVICES

**Stuart Newstead
Newstead Consulting Ltd.**

Introduction

At the SWIG workshop held in Hebden Bridge on 23 May there were excellent exchanges of information on the suitability, installation, calibration and maintenance of a range of continuous water monitoring devices for use in the water industry. The workshop concluded with a general commitment to improve collaboration in this field. This paper proposes that this can best be achieved by establishing a working group to exchange experience and capture best practice in standards, protocols and guidance as best fits particular issues. There are opportunities to both input to the development of national, European and International standards (a summary of activity is attached); and to produce water industry protocols and guidance.

The Working Group

A group called CENWATER has provided me with technical and financial support during the development through CEN, the European Standards Institute, of the standards for “Automated Samplers” and “Measuring Devices”. The Group was served by a members’ only website “CENWATER.ORG”. I issued periodic CENWATER newsletters to keep members informed and point them to revised draft standards loaded onto the website. One or two meetings a year were held over four years to discuss draft standards and exchange ideas. This approach was highly successful in providing UK input to the CEN Working Group and achieving changes to text and requirements in these standards. Financial support of about £10k per year was provided (£500 per member organisation per year). This phase of work has now ended. This proposal seeks to re-vitalise this approach to meet the challenges discussed at the SWIG workshop and arising from the forthcoming activities listed at annex. Membership should consist of a mixture of users (e.g. water companies, industrial organisations), instrument manufacturers, regulators, and other interested parties.

Stuart Newstead

I am experienced in managing groups defining technical requirements and skilled in capturing the requirements in standards, protocols and guidance notes. A summary of my experience is detailed at Annex B.

Next Steps

If interest please contact me by email to sn30@talktalk.net. If sufficient support is forthcoming I will convene a meeting to discuss establishment of the working group.

Stuart Newstead
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Annex A - Summary of National, European and International standards

Currently BSI, the European Standards Institute (CEN) and the International Standards Organisation (ISO) produce formal Standards. BSI largely acts through CEN or ISO.

CEN has issued European standards covering the performance requirements and testing of: “Automated Samplers” and “Measuring Devices”. And a proposal for a similar standard for “Water Flowmeters” is being progressed. These are based on the UK MCERTS standards. A French proposal is for a standard for “The installation and operational implementation of continuous water measuring systems”. CEN are also considering the development of a wide range of standards for “Continuous water quality monitoring (CWQM)” covering:

- environmental water quality control of surface, ground and marine water bodies,
- early warning systems for critical infrastructures (e.g. drinking water catchments),
- waste water discharges from sewage treatment works and industrial installations to meet regulatory requirements,
- process optimization (e.g. chemical dosing, energy use) in association with Predictive Emissions Monitoring Systems (PEMS) of sewage treatment and water supply treatment works to meet regulatory requirements for waste and potable waters,
- private water supplies used by the food and beverage industries,
- the commercial provision of monitoring services (e.g. specialist water provisions to hospitals).

ISO standards exist for the testing of “on-line sensors/equipment”. Work is currently underway in ISO on a standard for: “Continuous monitoring of water quality and operational parameters in drinking water networks”.

Annex B – Stuart Newstead

I used to be Head of the National Compliance Assessment Service in the Environment Agency. I was the founder of the Monitoring Certification Scheme, MCERTS. After taking early retirement in 2004 I established Newstead Consulting Ltd. My work has included acting as the SWIG Administrator, establishing and running the Water Control Room Forum. I am currently Convenor of the CEN Working Groups: “Water quality – Performance requirements and test procedures for water monitoring equipment”, and “Hydrometry - Performance Requirements and test procedures for water monitoring equipment – Devices for determining flow”. I am a member of the ISO Working Group: “Service activities relating to drinking water networks and wastewater systems — Guidelines for the implementation of continuous on/in-line monitoring of water quality and operational parameters in drinking water networks.”