



European  
Commission

# SOL-BRINE

Nothing more than salt and water

TINOS  
THE AEGEAN MUSE



Energy-autonomous systems from SEALEAU in Delft, the Netherlands, treat brine from desalination plants and industry.

## OUR STORY

We emerged as a start-up in 2015 to commercialise an innovation pioneered by the LIFE-funded Sol-Brine project. Our company SEALEAU B.V. now produces energy autonomous desalination units that eliminate environmentally harmful brine effluents, separating them into high quality water and salt that is fit for use in industry.



Water scarcity



Desalination



Innovation

## Larger with Life

From 2013-2016, the EU LIFE Programme invested €600 000 in the €1.2 million SOL-BRINE project to make seawater desalination more environmentally friendly. The project demonstrated that distilling water can boost the efficiency of desalination units, eliminating brine effluents entirely. The process runs on renewable energy and recovers demineralised water and salt as secondary materials.

## EU added value

- Halt brine contamination of ecosystems
- Energy cost of desalination down 33%
- Save 90 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per desalination unit

## Prospects

- Global market over €100 million a year
- Meet water needs along arid coastlines
- Cut utility bills for seaside dwellings

## Achievements

- Eliminated **desalination by-products**, separating effluents into dry salt and demineralised water
- Treated **200 tonnes of brine**, producing 180 tonnes of water and 12 tonnes of salt
- Increased the rate of water recovery from sea water from **30% to 90%**
- Claimed the **Green Award** for the best LIFE environment project in 25 years
- Secured €10 million of Horizon 2020 funding to scale up the technology in the **Zero-Brine** project

## Policy support

- Reduce marine impact of **brine disposal** in line with the EU water blueprint
- Address resource shortages detailed in the EU communication “*Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts*”
- **Recover wastewater** effluents as outlined in the EU action plan for the circular economy

## Contact

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Environment  
& Climate  
Action



# LIFE supporting companies



The **LIFE Programme** has financed green innovation and clean tech solutions since its start in 1992. One of today's key priorities for LIFE is to support close-to-market projects delivering innovative environmental solutions, ensuring that they are sustainable and capable of being widely taken up by society in general, and the economy in particular.

The **Close-to-market initiative's** aim is to help and assist the LIFE projects with market potential to develop towards successfully maintaining project results via commercialisation and upscaling of the proposed innovative solutions.

## How can LIFE support beneficiaries with close-to-market activities?

- Expert review of the close-to-market stage of your project and assessment of the close-to-market potential.
- Help with determining milestones and action points based on project readiness and assisting you with their progress during your project's whole lifecycle.
- Flexibility to use the LIFE project budget to get the necessary expertise including market analysis, detailed business plan preparation, coaching etc.
- Linking you with a network of advisers including the Enterprise Europe Network, coaches and accelerators.
- Assistance with financing and contacts with the investor community through events, introducing you to the SME Instrument and the European Investment Bank Group.
- Networking opportunities through LIFE platforms in order to build business partnerships with other key players.
- Gaining additional publicity for your innovative green solutions through the Innovation Radar platform and via dedicated handouts promoting close-to-market activities of LIFE.

*“LIFE can help you to sustain and thrive even after the end of the LIFE project.”*

## LEARN MORE

 [ec.europa.eu/life](http://ec.europa.eu/life)  [LIFE programme](#)  
 [@LIFEprogramme](#)  [LIFE programme](#)

## HOW TO APPLY FOR LIFE FUNDING

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals.  
Full details are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/your-close-market-proposals-tips-applying>

## CONTACT

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