

Splash Innovation Stage

The SPLASH Innovation Stage competition is part of the [EIP Water](#) 2017 Conference. The idea arose in 2016, when Porto applied to host the conference, while also proposing to bring to Porto the Mayors & Water Conference (where the [Urban Water Agenda 2030](#) will be discussed) and the [Water Innovation Lab](#) programme, designed to create the future leaders of the water sector. After its successful application, the concept of [Porto Water Innovation Week \(PWIW\)](#) was created to designate all of these initiatives and several others of a less technical nature, such as AquaPorto and Water & People, intended for the general public. Merely for your information and for contextual help, I enclose here an image that summarises the agenda of the special week dedicated to innovation in the water sector ([PWIWagenda.PNG](#)).

The SPLASH Innovation Stage competition received support from the following organisations in the first few months:

- UPTec, which, besides assisting with defining the [terms and conditions](#) and participating in the assessment of the entrants through [Mrs. Lurdes Gramaxo](#), provides an [accelerator programme](#) for all the finalists;
- [Isle Utilities](#), a consultancy specialising in cleantech based in the UK and with a presence in Europe, Asia, North America and Australia which also assisted in defining the terms and conditions and participated in finding and assessing the candidates through its European Regional Director, [Ignaz Worm](#).

In the initial phase, we asked for contributions from entities from the water sector (not just water and sanitation management entities, but also those linked to industry and agriculture), which we collected in a [Pool of Needs](#). Soon afterwards, we issued a call for applications from startups with innovative solutions in the water sector. We received a total of 28 applications from all around the world and the Porto + UPTec + Isle Utilities jury shortlisted the [top 16](#).

Of these, on 27th September the top 3 will be chosen to receive money prizes of €12,000€, €6,000 and €3,000. The winners will be chosen by a jury of 5 people and by a public vote, via the event's mobile app (75%-25%).

Meanwhile, we sought (and were sought out by) more partners and, at this moment, have the following support:

- JURY:
 - [Gaëtane Suzenet](#), managing partner of the Global Impact Partners, Venture Advisor at Aster Capital, member of the Steering Group at EIP Water. Besides being one of the speakers at the EIP Water Conference, she will join the jury and assess the candidates on the day of the competition.
 - [Launch Factory 88](#), a company that exports European technology to the Chinese market and will be represented by the Director of Investment of the group to which it belongs ([CHC](#)), [Maarten ter Kreust](#), as a member of the jury of SPLASH on the day of the competition.

- PRIZES:

- [SplashLink](#), a North American online platform that aggregates and divulges projects and financing opportunities in the water sector and is associated with PWIW and, in particular, with SPLASH to offer an additional prize to the competition winners (annual subscriptions to the platform). A [recent press release](#) by them details this partnership.
- [InnoEnergy](#) (EIT KIC), which will offer an additional prize of €1,000 to the startup with the greatest energy efficiency potential. This now brings the overall total of the prizes up to €22,000.

