

Safe drinking water treatment and supply integrating micro-payments



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A challenge shared by Cubo Environmental Technologies



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Challenge presented at Innovate 4 Water



More than 780 million people lack access to safe drinking water, particularly in developing countries. To help address this issue, we developed a compact, modular, containerized technology to treat and supply safe drinking water to small population clusters, from 500 to 3000 people. Through this technology, we can produce safe drinking water from natural water sources such as surface water and ground water, at an affordable price. Our equipment requires very low maintenance and operation skills, facilitating their use in more remote locations.

Most of our target locations do not have access to water distribution infrastructure. We needed the to deliver water to the final user and integrate with some payment/collection system."

Connections made during the conference

During the conference, Cubo established contact with Susteq, a Dutch company that developed a water payment and dispense terminal which could potentially be used for the "last mile" solution of our water treatment system. Following Innovate 4 Water, the Cubo team travelled to the Netherlands to visit Susteq headquarters and forged a partnership that will allow Cubo to use Susteq's terminals in its treatment and distribution systems. to



Current projects with these organizations

Cubo recently deployed a drinking water system to Murang'a village in Kenya, supplying safe drinking water to around 1000 people. Cubo installed a Susteq terminal in the village church to ensure that community members can access, collect and pay an affordable price for water. The payment is done by a pre-charged *Near Field Communication* (NFC) tag so that only digital money is transacted at the collection point.

Susteq's goal is to gain water access to safe water via a prepaid water ATM that allows people to pay a small amount for water. The money is used to pay for infrastructure that pumps the water, treats it if needed and transports it to the end user.



New projects that could emerge out of this collaboration



Cubo is now integrating the same model into the Nigerian market (integrating also Susteq equipment), where they are currently working in the water sector in partnership with AG-Dangote Construction Company Limited. AG-Dangote, is a joint venture between Dangote Group, one of the largest economic groups in Africa, and Andrade Gutierrez Group, a multinational Brazilian construction company. AG-Dangote is present in Nigeria in the construction sector, mainly roads.

Cubo is deploying a Smart Water Utility mode – a self-sustaining model that will allow the Nigerian people to benefit from the treatment and delivery of safe and affordable drinking water. Prices are kept down by combining the low treatment and operation cost of Cubo's equipment with the simplicity and security of the micropayment system developed by Susteq.

Cubo is also seeking to access the India market with this model. We are looking for partners that can represent our equipment (operation and maintenance), implement commercial strategy and with financial capabilities to invest in the water sector.



Impact of the collaboration



Through this collaboration, Cubo and Susteq can potentially bring affordable safe drinking water to over twenty thousand beneficiaries in the Nigerian market over the next year. There is already a project also happening in Kenya and the possibility to extend into other countries like India in the near future.

