



watervent.com

32 Forums
5,700 Attendees

WATERVENT



15 years of innovation, promotion
and scouting in Water technologies

Funding & Client Attraction in the Water Nexus
Benefits of an Acknowledged Forum

WaterVent Honored for Technology Leadership

Officially recognized by the City and County of San Francisco for exceptional dedication and innovation in water technology





Incepted in 2010 in Berlin (Watervent = acronym of Water and Venture) our forum has been executed 32 times. 2020 - 2022 thirteen forums via zoom.

Next Forums: 2026 Abu Dhabi, Berlin, Leeds (UK), Tel Aviv, San Francisco (TBC)

Participants on WaterVent Forums since inception in 2010

Europe 2010 - 2025

2010	Berlin, D	213 Participants
2011	Zurich, CH	134 Participants
2011	Leeuwarden, NL	167 Participants
2012	London, GB	128 Participants
2017	Geneva, CH	186 Participants
2017	Regensburg, D	110 Participants
2012	London, GB	128 Participants
2024	Berlin, D (april)	155 Participants
2024	Berlin, D (october)	250 Participants
2025	Oldenburg, D	140 Participants

Webinars

2020	may 14th	212 Participants
2020	june 7th	227 Participants
2020	july 9th	376 Participants
2020	september 17th	530 Participants
2020	october 8th	> 200 Participants
2020	november 12th	> 160 Participants

USA / U.A.E. 2010 - 2025

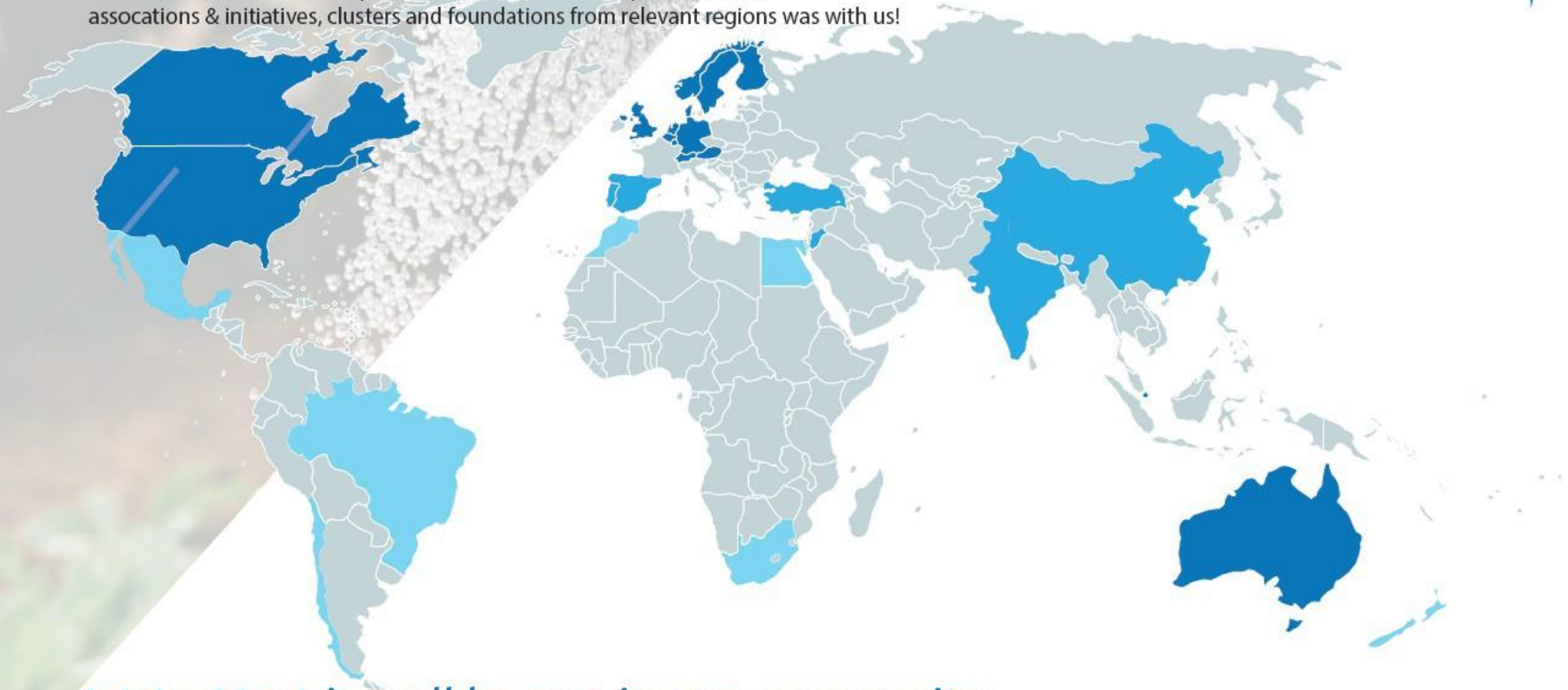
2012	Philadelphia, USA	140 Participants
2013	Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E.	156 Participants
2014	Philadelphia, USA	123 Participants
2015	New York, USA	118 Participants
2016	Philadelphia, USA	121 Participants
2017	Philadelphia, USA	129 Participants
2018	Philadelphia, USA	118 Participants
2019	Philadelphia, USA	134 Participants
2020	Storrs, CT, USA	120 Participants
2023	Cincinnati, USA	165 Participants
2025	San Francisco, USA	125 Participants

2020	december 15th	> 240 Participants
2021	march 25th	> 260 Participants
2021	may 11th	> 190 Participants
2021	september 29th	> 220 Participants
2021	november 18th	> 170 Participants
2022	november 18th	320 Participants

Major regions we are active in

The majority of relevant corporates, cleantech, water impact investors, associations & initiatives, clusters and foundations from relevant regions was with us!

Results of **WATERVENT** 

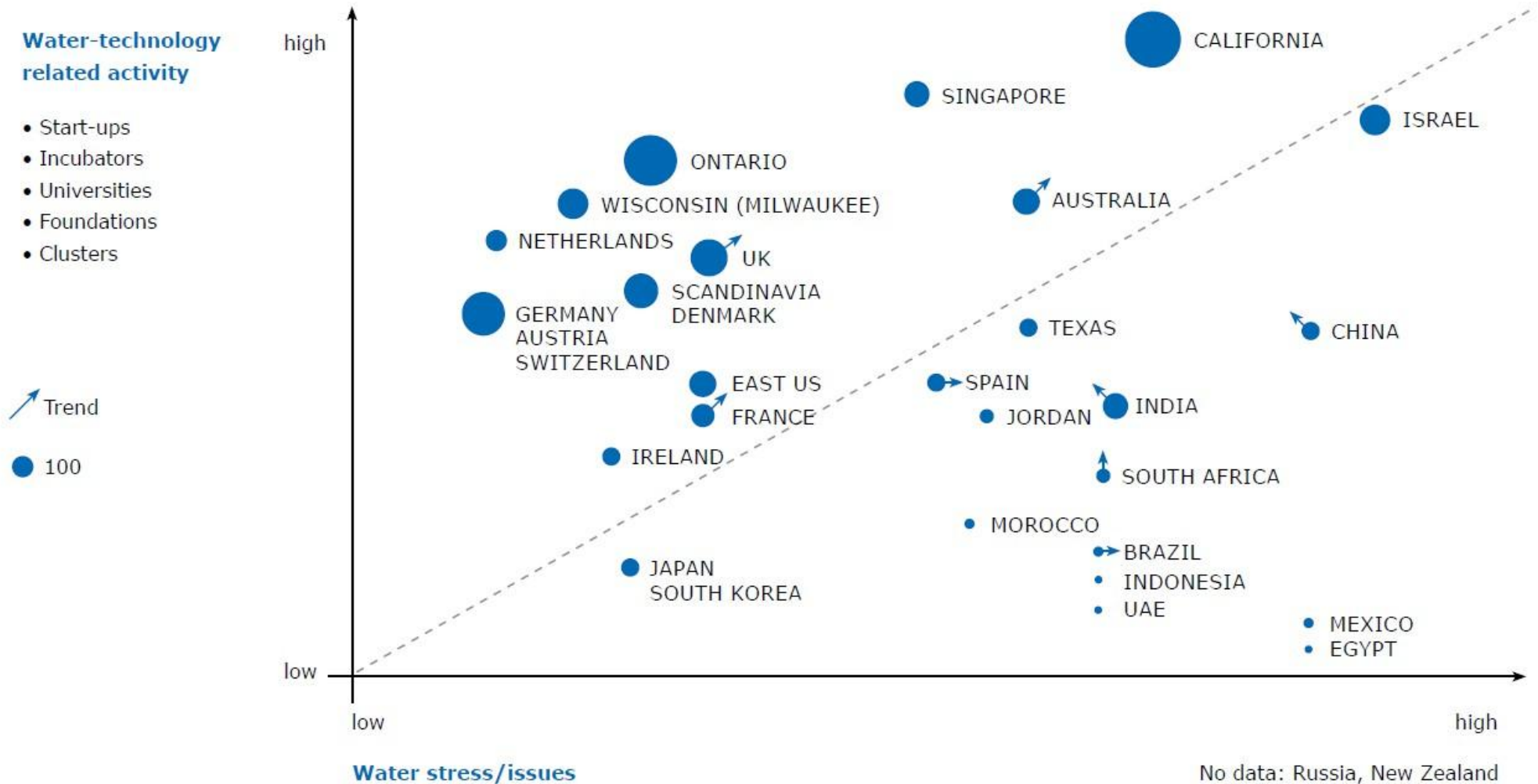


WaterVent is well known in our community
(research with 1,200 persons in the water space
showed 70% know us or have heard of us)

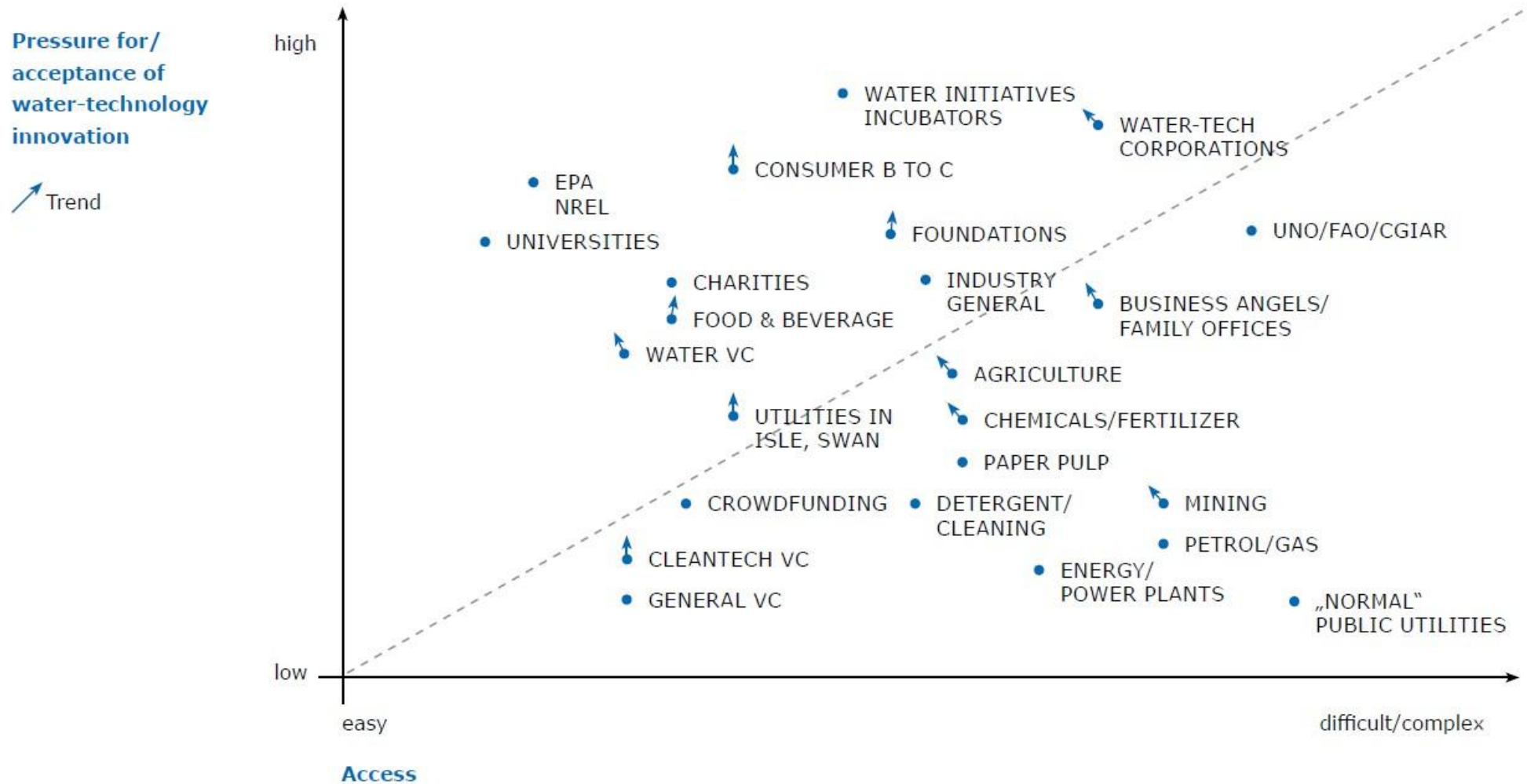
- Approximately 37,500 in databases
- 16,000 first degree contacts water related in LinkedIn
- 6,400 attendees from 29 forums
- > 4,600 members in LinkedIn Watervent group

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Water-technology related activity in relation to water stress

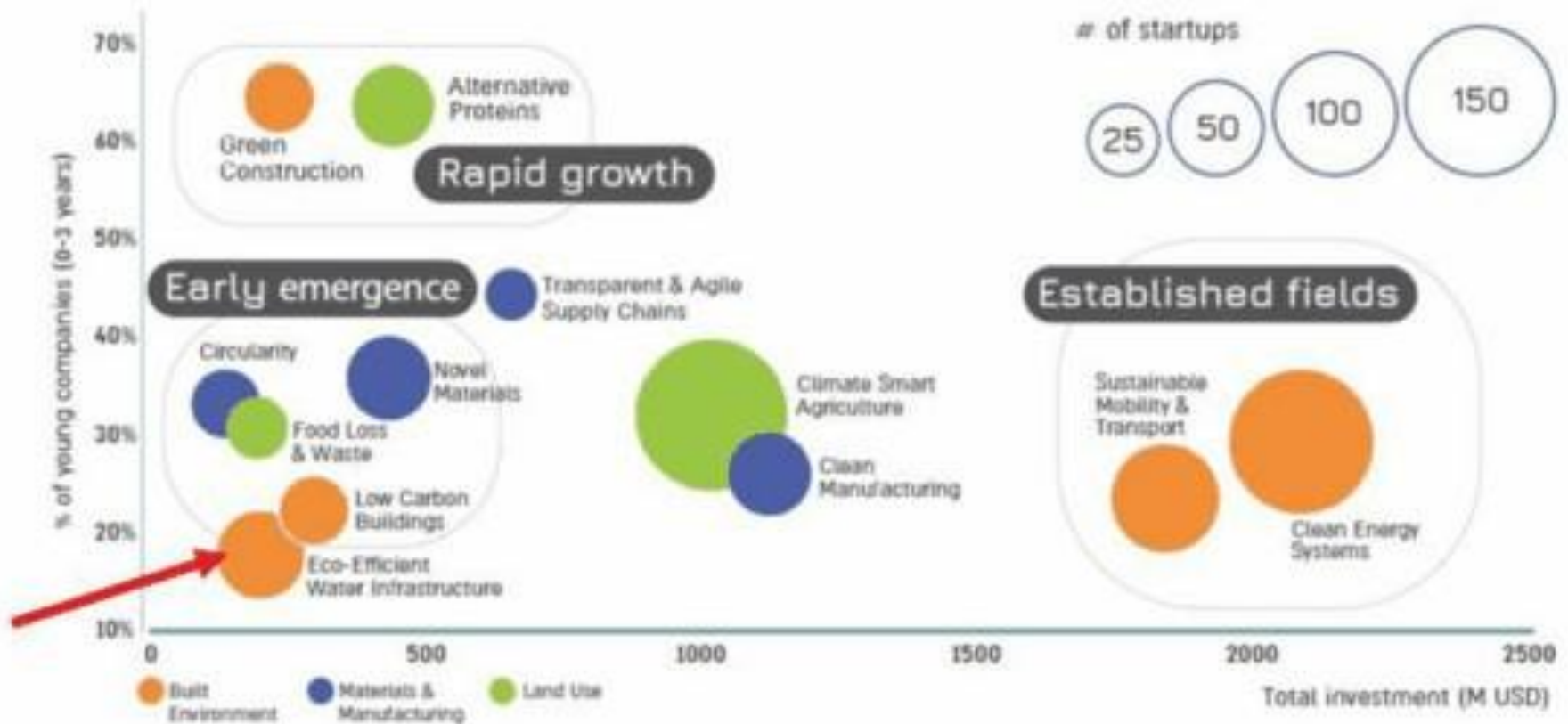


Funding, grant and income sources for water-technology innovation



Water Technology Innovations enjoy increasing relevance

FIGURE 9 | Growth Map of Climate Tech Domains



Source: report on the Israeli Climatech ecosystem by Israel Innovation Agency

Startups in Water Technologies and Related Fields



Seawater, Aquaculture, Modern Agriculture,
Algae, Blue & Green Biotech – The Nexus

Rising Challenges and Growing Opportunities in the Water Sector Water-related challenges are intensifying across the globe

- Growing irrigation demands driven by traditional farming, indoor agriculture, and rooftop systems.
- Urban greening initiatives require significant water resources, as city trees and green infrastructure need irrigation.
- Emerging contaminants such as PFAS, microplastics, pharmaceutical residues, and viruses call for innovative detection and treatment technologies. What's next?
- Population growth continues to accelerate water demand globally.
- 40% of the global population lacks reliable access to potable water, largely due to inadequate or failing infrastructure. There is a strong need for decentralized, low-tech, easy-to-install, operate, and maintain solutions.

Environmental pressures are compounding the crisis

- Desertification and shrinking lakes are on the rise. Conventional desalination remains expensive, and brine disposal into oceans poses environmental risks.
- Deforestation, despite global discourse, continues to worsen, accelerating desertification and further threatening water supplies.
- Aquifers and wells are being depleted in many parts of the world.

Startups in Water Technologies and Related Fields



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Water remains under-prioritized despite its critical importance

- Awareness is growing too slowly; international congress outcomes often disappoint. (Example: The EU bans plastic straws while the Mekong River remains a major source of ocean plastic pollution.)
- Smart grids and digitalization in water infrastructure – including satellite monitoring, leak detection, water theft prevention, and cyber-physical security – are still in their early stages.

Summary

There is enormous potential for innovation and startup activity in this field. If you're working in water technologies or adjacent sectors, you're in the right place at the right time.

Challenges to be aware of

- As with most startups: funding and securing early adopters are key hurdles.
- The sector is highly conservative and politically influenced, often reluctant to adopt new technologies.

Recommendations for Startups

1. Get connected and visible

The framework for public grants and prototyping in Israel, UK, Finland, USA, Canada... in my eyes the best. encompassing forum we recommend to attend or to present

Selection

- Switzerland: ETH Zurich, EAWAG, WEF Uplink Program, diverse foundations, Swiss Cleantech (Suisse Romande).
- Israel: WATEC, Technion, Mekorot
- UK. Isle Utilities, Spring Innovation, Water Innovation Alliance, Cambridge/Oxford Cleantech Network, BlueTechResearch Water Summit, Global Water Intelligence „Global Water Summit“, Rethink forums Brighton (London and Los Angeles), Reset Connect Cleantech Forum
- Austria. Schwarzenegger Foundation with annual summit in Vienna
- Denmark. Grundfos Foundation. Danish Water Valley, Techtour's Water Forum
- Sweden: SIWI
- NL: Wetsus Leuwarden (Incubator), Aquatech (fair)
- Canada: Foresight Vancouver, Aqua Action/Aqua Hackathon (Montreal),
- USA: WEFTEC (though too large for startups, just attend and cruise), ImagineH2O, Wetcenter Irvine California, BREW Milwaukee (my favourite!), MIT Water Initiative, Current Chicago, Xylem Water tech Incubator Washington D.C., Cleveland Water Alliance, Xprize, Fastcompany (some), Elemental Exel. (Hawaii)
- Germany: Greentech Festival, IFAT (visit only), Falling Walls Foundation
- France: Poles des Competitivite (Clusters)
- Mexico: Femsa Foundation Monterrey
- Finland: VTT
- Platforms: Environmental Experts (Spain), Illuminem (Italy), Dealroom

Recommendations for Startups

2. Funding

- Many Corporate Venturer active (of Food, AG, Beverage Corporates... Infrastructure like Pipes, Valves. Treatment, Petrol related like Repsol Ventures, Aramco.... Aqseptence, Mann & Hummel,....Skion (Quant Family), Aliaxis (Pipes).
- Mining companies, oil exploration, power plantes , shipping/Ballast water, vineries/ag.
- General Cleantech VC are often focussed on energy technologies, materials – ask for their interest in water.
- General VC. Do water engagement if related to smart grid, surveillance & monitoring, security.
- Family Offices and Biz angels. Ask (water is new to them, bit curious to explore).
- Water only VC Increasing offer! Some names like Mazarine Ventures (USA), Burnt Island (USA), Pureterra (NL), Emerald Ventures (CH, Series B), Cycle Capital (Canada), White Stage Investing (Italy), More to be expected Recommended advisors like Booky Oren, Will Sarni, Dr. Jörg Nowak (Orca Consulting).
- Foundations/Charities/NGO . talk to Gates, Rockefeller, Walton Foundation, Coca-Cola, Grundfos, Wallenberg (Sweden), UAE, KAUST (Saudi)
- Talk to any family owned and managed corporate in „close to water“ Businesses (real estate owners, big farmers, food, beverage, car/truck wash, hotels & convention centers, laundries...) combine application and funding deals- create references.
- Join Xylem water tech pitches (Washington DC), Imagine H2O, ask Rethink forum for a pitch, join Waterpitch (USA), BREW, SOSV (USA), Urban-X (BMW)

WaterVent is a brand of

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