

## **Forskningsfinansiering av Aquateam COWI AS**

### **Independent research within Water & Environment**

Aquateam COWI AS is an independent research and development company owned by COWI. The company is active within R&D sector focused on Water and Environment and carries out research projects. Aquateam identifies new environmental problems at an early stage, identifies the gaps in knowledge and delivers essential research-based knowledge. Aquateam has a goal to disseminate research-based knowledge as an integral part of its R&D activities.

Wastewater and waste generated by the growing population increases at fast pace. In order to guarantee a sustainable future (clean air and water), proper handling shall include, among other alternatives, increasing the capacity and upgrading existing treatment facilities and treatment methods for wastewater and waste, combining regional waste streams and applying innovation to produce more and new marketable products. Therefore, the demand for knowledge and solutions will increase, and research will be critical both for understanding global processes and for developing solutions.

To maintain a position as an independent research company an external funding from COWIfonden has been crucial. The donation from COWIfonden will be used to take independent R&D initiatives and will encourage greater creativity and innovation throughout the organization and find new areas and ways to use Aquateam knowledge. The donation will give Aquateam COWI the possibility to initiate research activities within fields, where innovative solutions can create value for industry and society.

One of the first focus areas seems to be pharmaceuticals and its presence in the environment. The occurrence of pharmaceutical substances in the environment is of global concern and the extent of their risks and impacts on human health and biota is largely unknown. Therefore, more research within this area is necessary (pathways, methods of treatment and removal). Other areas of Aquateam interest will be energy and nutrients recovery from the fish industry, especially from the emerging recirculated aquaculture systems. Highly innovative drinking water treatment technologies will be also Aquateam's goal for using the donation from COWIfonden.

Aquateam will maintain and develop the broad basic and interdisciplinary expertise by using high quality laboratory and experimental facilities and other research infrastructure that support the needs, and make Aquateam an attractive partner for research collaboration. Aquateam will share research results with the public and increase the number of publications in recognized international journals. Aquateam will increase participation in international activities, both EU projects and other projects where the expertise is requested.