

Press release of ecoprogram GmbH, 01 December 2010

Operators keep investing in German industrial sewage plants

Despite decreasing amounts of treated wastewater, operators in Germany will invest into their industrial sewage plants in the coming five years. This is the result of a survey by ecoprogram and Fraunhofer UMSICHT.

Less and less wastewater is treated in the manufacturing and the industrial sector in Germany – over the past ten years, the amount of treated wastewater has decreased by about ten per cent. This is mainly due to improved production processes and especially due to the fact that less and less polluting or harmful substances are being used.

Still, most of the operators of industrial sewage plants want to invest in their plants in the coming five years. This is the result of a survey of about 600 operators, which we undertook within the framework of our recently published study.

The most important arguments for investing are complying with legal limit values and reducing energy and operating material costs. In the case of investments in modern equipment, for example in ventilation technologies, the increased energy costs particularly lead to short amortisation periods.

Altogether, there are almost 12,000 industrial premises in Germany, which discharge their wastewater into the environment of the public sewage network on a large scale. About a fourth – about 3,000 industrial premises – has an own waste water treatment plant. This number does not include, however, smaller businesses, which obtain less than 2,000 cubic metres of water per year and discharge less than 10,000 cubic metres of wastewater annually.

Most of the industrial sewage plants can be found in the food industry and the metalworking industry. The largest plants and amounts of treated wastewater exist in the chemical and the paper industry.

ecoprogram and Fraunhofer UMSICHT have recently published the multi-client study „Market Study Industrial Sewage Plants in Germany“. It analyses the existing plants in the German industrial wastewater treatment sector and can be ordered at www.ecoprogram.com.

The Cologne-based consultancy ecoprogram with offices and representations in Germany, Canada, Japan, China, France and Italy specialises in the markets of environmental and energy technology. The Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology UMSICHT develops, examines and optimises techniques within the sectors of environmental engineering, safety engineering, process technology and energy technology. Together, we elaborate market studies of selected segments within the field of environmental technology.