

# Swelia

## NETWORK OF COMPANIES OF THE WATER SECTOR



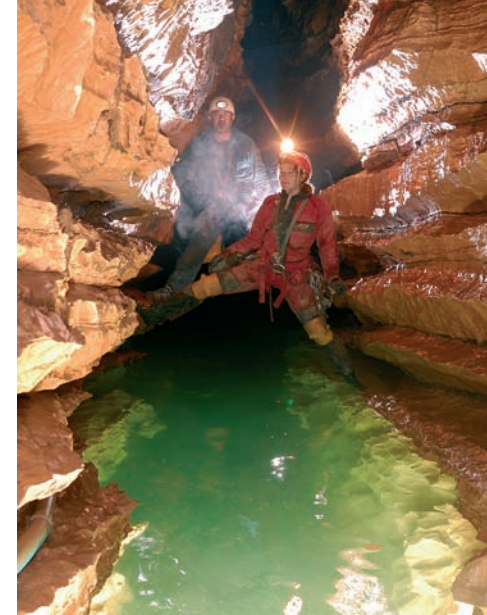
In 2006, companies from the Water sector, SMEs, SMIs and Groups with sites in Languedoc-Roussillon, decided to come together to increase their performance on the local, national and international markets.

Covering all the requirements linked to the water cycle, the experience of the Swelia network companies has been gained around the Mediterranean periphery, where the resource and its management have always been an essential concern.

A pool of expertise in the field of water, the Languedoc-Roussillon region occupies a strategic position between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean basin.



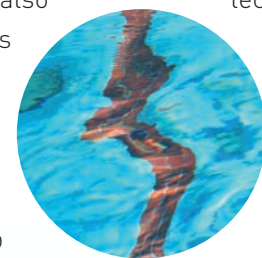
A pioneer in the field of water research, the Languedoc-Roussillon region in the last few decades has been able to develop its skills in finding new sources, using it, purifying it, controlling it, protecting it, distributing it etc. Swelia puts all of this expertise in synergy and makes bridges between all the players of the Water industry, a vital element, a global asset and a major challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



# Swelia

## A space for exchange and consultation

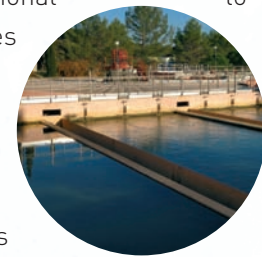
A platform of skills and expertise, Swelia is also a « resource » space, in which all the players concerned with the issues of water can find information, share their experience and oppose their points of view. Events are organised around various topics to encourage partnerships and coordinated action, develop



technological watch, forward planning and innovation. Whatever the topic discussed, the purpose of these meetings is the consultation of all those involved in the water industry to examine ways of moving forward together and making optimal solutions emerge for the management of the resource.

## Overall, exhaustive and high-performance solutions

Swelia companies are involved at regional, national and international level, at all the major stages of the water cycle. Beyond the range of services and products offered by all of its members, the originality of the Swelia network lies in its capacity to bring together expertise and to share the technical and human resources



to provide perfectly suited responses to the overall needs or demands for expertise in the field of water. With Swelia, the management of the water resource can be seen as providing optimal solutions in terms of time scales, costs, flexibility, durability and efficiency.

## A key representative for all of the Water industry's players

Beyond any corporatist struggle, Swelia undertakes discussions with the ordering parties so that all the water sector can progress. As a responsible player, Swelia uses the services of research establishments, both public and private to set up R&D projects which allow overall management of the water resource. As an innovative player, Swelia with the universities is developing



services at the cutting-edge of technology. As a dynamic player, Swelia is working with training organisations to encourage the suitability of training with the requirement of the sector... As a unique player, Swelia, through its private companies, is the key partner for all those involved in the water industry, players from the institutional, associative, industrial and scientific sectors.

# swelia

ALL THE WATER INDUSTRY'S PROFESSIONS

Swelia covers a wide spectrum of skills in the fields of research, the characterisation of the resource, harnessing, distribution, irrigation, analyses and checks, waste water treatment, management of the natural environment, engineering, Research and Development of everything which concerns water resources in the wider meaning of the term, from the high mountains to the sea, and surface water to ground water.

SWELIA COMPANIES INTERVENE AT ALL STAGES OF THE WATER CYCLE



### A FEW FIGURES

**THE SWELIA COMPANIES**

- Annual Turnover of more than 500 M€
- Over 4 000 jobs in Languedoc-Roussillon

**THE LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON REGION**

- Nearly 300 companies in the water sector



# Water...

## RESOURCES TO HARNESS

### Rainwater

Because of urbanisation which notably leads to a saturation of the waste water treatment networks but also because of global warming which causes floods and droughts, local authorities increasingly have to manage rainwater and wish to set up sustainable projects to protect this precious resource.

### Surface water

High quality management of surface water (water courses, lakes and reservoirs) must enable the various economic requirements to be met in the agricultural and industrial sectors, for energy production or fish farming, without compromising the physical and ecological balance of this resource.

### Ground water

Ground water is also an important natural asset for use as drinking water and industrial and agricultural uses or for feeding the hydrographical surface networks. It is therefore vital to ensure its protection, especially since the effects of pollution are much longer lasting on ground water than on surface water.

### Sea water

Sea water which covers two-thirds of the earth's surface has a major role to play on the climate and constitutes an important factor for economic prosperity. Protecting marine environments from the impact of human activities (over-fishing, various types of pollution etc), preventing their deterioration and restoring ecosystems are major challenges to overcome in the next few decades.

## USES TO CONTROL

### Drinking water

Making good quality drinking water available to the population is a permanent concern of the health authorities: the use of fertilizers and pesticides is banned near resources which need protecting and checks must be made throughout the production line (point of abstraction, water treatment plant, distribution network etc).

### Waste water

The development of human activities has inevitably led to an increasing growth in waste pollutants; therefore the treatment and cleaning of waste water (domestic, industrial and rain water) has become essential for our modern societies as it contributes to the quality of our lives in all its aspects.

# Water

## A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

A global heritage and a vital part of any society, water is one of our most precious resources, but it is unevenly distributed in space and in time and is inevitably subject to the impact of global changes (climatic changes, demographic changes, urbanisation, pollution etc).

Today, comprehensive management of water resources constitutes one of the main challenges for the future of humanity as it conditions both the quality of life on our planet and the sustainable economic development of our societies.

Ensuring the renewal of water resources to satisfy an innumerable number of needs, preserving their quality, avoiding waste, preventing irreversible deterioration, etc, so many complex issues which can only be resolved with the involvement of all the participants who exercise responsibility in terms of decisions, management and use.

A team-builder for the Water industry's professions, Swelia is putting the Languedoc-Roussillon region at the centre of an international movement which is working, day in day out, to meet the key challenge of global water resources.



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