

PHOTONICS AGAINST LEGIONELLA

A new generation sensor to face a significant Health and Safety Societal challenge





in

Plasmonic-based autOmated lab-on-chip SEnsor for the rapid Insitu Detection of LegiONella













THE PROJECT

Poseidon

The **POSEIDON** project adopts a multidisciplinary approach involving key enabling technologies (KET) in photonics, aiming at the exploitation of the surface plasmon resonance (SPR) phenomenon to develop a fully automated platform for fast optical detection of *L. Pneumophila* pathogens. This detection platform will be implemented as a prototype in which water and air samples are sequentially concentrated, injected into a microfluidic system, and delivered to the SPR sensor for analysis. The system will be designed to allow for its future integration in water distribution and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) for prevention of *l. Pneumophila* outbreaks.



OBJECTIVES

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The objective of the POSEIDON project is to develop a **SPR-based biosensing platform** for the **detection** of L. pneumophila bacteria, with **high sensitivity and high specificity**, translating the results obtained as experimental proof of concept into an operating automated **prototype usable in industrially relevant settings and by untrained personnel**.

CHALLENGES

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- High sensitivity and low detection limit

- **Selectivity** towards target pathogen detection in order to avoid both false-positive and false-negative results

- Short analysis times
- **Ease of use,** possibility of on-site monitoring and automation of the sample manipulation and detection procedure.

- **Efficient delivery** of the bacteria: cells should remain intact throughout the whole fluid transportation system in the device, and should not adhere to the fluidic piping and microfluidic channels, so that virtually all of the bacteria cells in the sample are delivered to the sensing unit.

- The **size** of the device should allow samples to be analyzed at the point of need rather than in a separate laboratory, allowing**reduction of cost** per single measurement and increase in throughput.



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SPR sensors provide an extremely sensitive and versatile tool for miniaturized label-free sensing platforms integrated into lab-on-chip systems for potential applications in environmental monitoring, biotechnology, medical diagnostics, drug screening, food safety and security.

An **innovative sensing device** architecture will be used to create a platform to yield reliable measurement readouts of legionella bacterial cells that would be driven and entrapped on a custom sensing surface specifically designed with opportune positive and negative controls.

The detection platform will be implemented as a **prototype** in which water and air samples are sequentially concentrated, injected into a **microfluidic system**, and delivered to the SPR sensor for analysis. The system will be designed to allow for its future integration in water distribution and **HVAC** (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) for prevention of L. pneumophila outbreaks.

PARTNERS

Poseidon Project



PROJECT DETAILS

Poseidon Project

Project reference 644669 Start/End Gen 2015-Dic 2017 Total cost EUR 4.068.781 EUR 4.068.781

Programme acronym H2020-ICT-2014-1

Subprogramme area ICT-26-2014 Photonics KET

Contract type: Research and Innovation Actions

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