

## Ensuring safety of water sources

Detection of pathogens in water sources is a key step towards protecting the public from a variety of diseases and ensuring that public health and safety measures are met.

An Italian research team has devised a new method for the detection of coliform bacteria in samples, which can yield rapid results and can detect even very small numbers of bacteria.

The presence of coliform bacteria, including *Escherichia coli*, is a common indicator of pollution, therefore accurately detecting these microorganisms in potable waters samples is of crucial importance.

The new method is independent of cell growth and rather relies on the expression of inducible enzymes, significantly reducing detection times and able to detect even very limited numbers. Free of time constraints this method can produce accurate results in a variety of water samples in approximately two hours and can be used to test the efficacy of pollution preventing measures.

Patents for this method have already been applied for and there is a prototype available for demonstration purposes and testing. The developers are now ready to enter into suitably structured agreements covering the rights to this approach with a variety of potential partners such as environmental protection agencies, private sector industries and public organisations.

A number of different agreements are being considered, including licensing and marketing deals and also manufacturing and commercial deals.

**Information Source:** Promoted through the Innovation Relay Centres network, IRC  
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**Collaboration Sought:** Licence agreement; Marketing agreement; Manufacturing agreement; Information exchange/Training; Other

**Property Rights:** Patent(s) applied for but not yet granted

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