

CONCEPT WATER TESTING STATION



1 INTRODUCTION

Water quality testing, as part of monitoring water safety, is fundamental for the development of the water sector and the reduction of waterborne diseases in developing countries.

But, despite the high demand for water testing, the capacity to perform water quality testing is still very low and faces major difficulties to develop in many developing countries - in the private as well as in the public sector¹. We want to change that.

Running a water testing laboratory in developing countries is possible but requires special expertise and critical success factors one needs to keep in mind. We strongly believe, that running a water testing laboratory in a developing country will have the greatest success as a joint venture between a suitable organization on the ground that has the needed recognition and ability and us, an organization that is familiar with the difficulties, critical success factors and has developed sustainable solutions.

Our aim is to give a strong initial support and lead a water testing laboratory towards independence from outside support as soon as possible.

2 OUR GOALS

- Develop water testing laboratories in developing countries and strengthen local capacities
- Make water testing services easily available for a wide range of organizations such as water supply managers, government, NGOs, and private companies – reduce waterborne diseases
- Be economical – be sustainable

¹ Some of the major difficulties are:

- i. Poor customer services from foreign suppliers
- ii. Complex purchasing and inventory management
- iii. Lack of qualified workforce resources
- iv. Limited financial capacities
- v. higher costs due to transportation and custom charges for laboratory equipment
- vi. Bad infrastructure and unfavorable climatic conditions
- vii. wrong choice of instrumentation and consumables
- viii. Tendency to overdo things (excessive micromanagement)
- ix. Missing quality management systems
- x. Poor communication systems



3 WATER TESTING STATION – THE IDEA

The water testing station is a success-oriented local drinking water quality testing laboratory which starts out of a cooperative partnership between us and a professional organization on the ground.

3.1 FOCUS

The Water Testing Station has a strong focus on:

- National priority parameters
- Quality management
- Human resource development

3.2 CORE OBJECTIVES

- Make high quality water testing services easily available for a wide range of organizations such as water supply managers, government, NGOs, and private companies
- Be part of a national water safety monitoring system
- Be economical
- Have a solid quality management system implemented and aim for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation

3.3 CORE SERVICES

- Water quality testing for priority parameters
- Water sampling
- Professional baseline studies

3.4 KEY CUSTOMERS

- Water supply managers
- Governmental organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- Private companies

CONTACT

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4 BENEFITS FROM COLLABORATING WITH US

Collaborating with us will ensure that your water testing laboratory will be sustainable. We propose to share the responsibilities as follows:

4.1 LetzTest SERVICES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Development of a professional business plan in cooperation with partnering organization. (Who are the key customers? What is the market and who are the competitors? Who is the staff? Marketing? What are the legal requirements? Where the risks and what are the critical success factors? What about our financial plan? What about our implementation calendar?)
- Delivery of testing equipment
- Support in the right choice of additional equipment
- Generation of critical success factors to run a successful water testing laboratory in a specific location
- Introduction of a quality management system
- Provision of intelligible procedures
- Introduction of suitable management tools (data management tool, stock management tool, lab accounting system)
- Trainings & training materials for staff members

4.2 QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCES REQUESTED FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATION

- Locally well recognized organization
- Good and close contact to local key actors (government, NGOs, water suppliers)
- Ability to establish a strong organizational structure
- Ability to establish a quality management system
- Ability to find and develop competent staff
- Sufficient financial resources to initiate the project
- Motivation and ability to develop a laboratory business plan in cooperation with LetzTest