



# Mekorot WaTech™ Creating the Water Technologies of Tomorrow

WaTech - Water Technologies Entrepreneurship Center - was established in 2004 by Mekorot, Israel's national water company, in response to global water supply challenges. Mekorot expanded its activities both in Israel and overseas to include research and enterprising initiatives seeking water technology solutions. With over seventy years of accumulated knowledge, experience and technological know-how, Mekorot is recognized as one of the most advanced water companies worldwide. It is thus well positioned to bring added value to both the local and the international water industry, particularly in the following three areas:

- Business ventures and collaborations
- Applied research

- Intellectual property development and patenting.

Situated at the forefront of technological innovation, with WaTech spearheading its initiatives, Mekorot attracts various types of entrepreneurships, from start-ups and mature companies, through academic institutions, to investors and venture capital funds. All of these advantages make Mekorot a vital and prominent figure in today's global water market, and a pioneer of tomorrow's water technologies.

# Business Ventures and Collaborations

WaTech offers a unique and comprehensive platform for business ventures and emerging collaborations in the following fields:

- Water quality
- Desalination
- Sustainable development (environmental quality and green energy)
- Water security
- Wastewater treatment and effluent reuse
- Engineering services
- Water supply command and control systems
- Models for optimized water system operation and management
- Green energy sources

The WaTech Center assesses proposals for water technology projects and enterprises. Mekorot's sites provide a testing ground for experiments initiated by leading water companies worldwide, as well as for international collaborative projects intent on developing new water technologies. Over the years, WaTech has evaluated more than 500 proposals for water technology projects, and has engaged in collaborative efforts with twenty of these. As part of the appraisal process, the advanced facilities of Mekorot are made available for alpha and beta testing. Mekorot's senior experts in various water related disciplines participate in the planning and development of the initiative, and evaluate its market potential. Within this framework, Mekorot serves as a key figure for establishing professional and business ties with a broad range of international water technology professionals and business leaders in the global water market, as well as for accessing potential funding and knowledge resources. From start to finish, each and every project enjoys the full benefit of Mekorot's cutting edge advantages, thus ensuring the best possible results.



## Applied Research

Mekorot's WaTech Center conducts approximately fifty applied research studies each year, in order to increase the resources of available knowledge and identify promising new water technologies. The research teams include members of Mekorot's highly skilled research staff who work in collaboration with the leading academic institutions in Israel, such as the Technion in Haifa, Tel-Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Other participants in these research endeavors include internationally renowned academic institutions, research foundations and multinational corporations. An attractive feature of the applied research studies conducted by WaTech is the access to Mekorot's knowledge-based resources, particularly its advanced research and development (R&D) centers: The Eshkol R&D site, located in the Beit-Netofa valley, which focuses on surface water research; The Shafdan site in Rishon Letzion, that studies treated sewage water as well as treated and reclaimed wastewater; and The Sabha site in Eilat, which researches processes for desalination of sea and brackish water. As a company committed to protecting the environment, Mekorot invests considerable research-related resources in initiatives promoting environmental sustainability and is actively seeking environmentally friendly water technologies that capitalize on non-perishable natural resources.



## Intellectual Property

Over the years, Mekorot has accumulated a great deal of knowledge that stems from the company's exclusive activities, conducted in a variety of sub-specialty disciplines and in an atmosphere that encourages innovation, technological progress, and constant development. Attentive to the significance of intellectual property, one of WaTech's missions is to identify, patent register (to protect), and commercialize the company's unique developments, thus converting them into economic as well as representative assets of Mekorot. WaTech's engagement in activities that increase the breadth and depth of Mekorot's professional knowledge and know-how is considered a vital resource for the company's continued development and long-term leadership in the field of water management and technology.