ARHEL
Pustovrhova 15
1210 Ljubljana-Šentvid, Slovenia
Tel: +386 5 90 47 989 / Fax: +386 5 90 47 988
Mail: info@arhel.si, www.arhel.si

Date: September 5th 2013
Contact: dr. Maja Zupančič Justin
Tel: +386 (0)59 033 386
GSM: +386 (0)31-361-698
E-mail: maja.justin@arhel.si

PRESS RELEASE

THE START OF THE PROJECT: LIFE Stop CyanoBloom

Company Arhel, d. o. o., has signed a Grant Agreement for the start of the three and a half-year project with the title "Innovative technology for cyanobacterial bloom control" co-funded by European financial instrument LIFE

A project with the title »Innovative technology for cyanobacterial bloom control« will be carried out by the company Arhel d.o.o. in the partnership with Municipality Bled and National Institute of Biology in Slovenia. The project, worth EUR 1.3 million, is co-funded by European LIFE financial instrument, supporting environmental and nature conservation projects, in the amount of EUR 648,000.

The aim of the project is to prevent cyanobacterial blooms, which represent a serious problem of eutrophic (nutrient-rich) water bodies all over the world. Consequently, we expect the absence of cyanotoxins formed by cyanobacteria, which represent a significant health risk. During the three and a half year-long project we will demonstrate a performance of proposed high-tech solution on two standing freshwater bodies. An extensive long-term monitoring of environmental parameters and system efficiency will be performed.

We expect that the innovative technology will significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality of standing freshwater bodies, such as lakes, aquaculture ponds, bathing waters and surface water reservoirs for drinking water supply.

The innovative technological solution is composed of mobile floating working platform equipped with advanced sensor system for early detection of cyanobacteria and certain physical and chemical parameters in water bodies. The reduction of cyanobacteria will be achieved by electrochemical system triggering cyanobacterial lytic cycle (break down). The mobility of the device will be provided by an autonomous system with auxiliary power from photovoltaic solar cells. The device will also collect samples for further laboratory analysis. The system will transmit the real-time measured parameters via GSM network, which will be available on the project website.

Company Arhel, d. o. o., is active in developing, manufacturing and selling high-tech electronic products. In recent years, its development also focuses on solutions for wastewater and protection of freshwater bodies. The result of the recent development are two patent applications, a high-tech solutions for the prevention of cyanobacteria blooms, enabling their early detection and removal, and a system based on electrochemical degradation of persistent pollutants from the water used in the process of wastewater treatment as well as purification of drinking water.