



ITALY

Water & Waste Water Market Brief 2009

Italy: Important Links & Contacts

Ministry of Environment – <http://www.minambiente.it/>
Ministry of Agriculture – <http://www.politicheagricole.it/Ministero/default>
ISPRA - Institute for Environmental Protection and Research -
<http://www.apat.gov.it/site/en-GB/default.html>
Federutility – Federation of water, gas and energy utilities -
<http://www.federutility.it/memo/inglese.html>
ANIMA Association of Mechanical and Engineering Industries -
http://www.anima-it.com/servizi/acqua/acqua_2008_completa.pdf

Market Overview

Italy transposed the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD), which extends protection to all water, including the inland and coastal waters and groundwater, into national legislation through Decree 152 of April 2006 - "Rules on Environmental Protection". The decree sets water quality objectives based on preventing pollution and protecting water from dangerous chemical substances, and introduces broader ecological objectives designed to protect and restore the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems by 2015.

The Italian water collection and distribution systems, as well as its urban wastewater sewage and purification systems, are still inadequate and the total investment to implement an integrated water system, comprising aqueducts, sewage systems and treatment services, may reach as much as \$55 billion countrywide in the next ten years.

The loss from aqueducts is estimated at about 40%, especially in Southern Italy, and there is a strong need for infrastructure improvement. In addition, a serious water crisis, endemic in Southern Italy, has recently occurred also in Northern-Central Italy, caused by a sharp reduction in rainfall and snowfall, with serious repercussions on the availability of water for drinking, industrial and agricultural use. Measures to encourage more rational, sustainable use of this resource are being taken, including new legislation for water reuse and investments in innovative technologies to prevent and detect water losses.

Competition is strong and European companies dominate the market. However, U.S. technologies are well regarded and there is potential for American companies offering innovative water treatment technologies.



Highlight Box

- Italy may spend as much as \$55 billion in the next ten years to implement an integrated water system, comprising aqueducts, sewage systems and treatment services.
- About one sixth of the water used for drinking in Italy is bottled mineral water, one of the highest consumption rates in the world.

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