



Local business launches water monitoring project in Chichester Harbour

Litmus Technologies have launched an innovative project in partnership with Chichester University and facilitated by Chichester Harbour Conservancy, that aims to provide real time pollution monitoring in the harbour.

Project Lifebuoy, the first of its kind in the UK, aims to deploy a series of buoys into the harbour that will monitor the quality of water and transmit the results back in real time. The project is being funded by a group of local businesspeople who formed the company to try and tackle the problem of water pollution monitoring.

Chief Marketing Officer Sean Curtis explained “Traditional methods to check water quality require someone to travel to the location, take a sample, send it off to a lab then wait for the results. This is costly and means the information isn’t immediately available to harbour users. Our families are lucky enough to be able to swim, sail, fish and kayak in this beautiful area and we wanted to develop a better solution where the information is instantly available”.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy have helped the team identify a suitable location to enable the continuous monitoring to be used alongside the regular water quality testing that Chichester Harbour already undertakes. Chichester Harbour Conservancy Director & Harbour Master Richard Craven said “We have been monitoring water quality in the Harbour for many years but are always interested in supporting further research which explores innovative new ways to provide information for harbour users”.

The information will then be analysed by Chichester University to build an Artificial Intelligence model. Professor Dave Cooper, Head of the Business School at Chichester University said “Chichester University has an experienced AI and Data Analytics team and we will look at tides, weather, pollution events, plus all the water sensor readings to enhance our understanding of water quality in the harbour”.

Water quality in the harbour is affected by a number of factors, from farming to sewage to commercial run-off and Litmus has been designed to accommodate multiple sensors that measure different aspects of water quality. The first buoy will measure PH levels, ORP (Oxidation Reduction Potential), dissolved oxygen, conductivity and temperature, with following buoys measuring nitrate and phosphates (common in fertilisers) and e-coli (sewage).

Litmus Commercial Director Paul Evans said “Our aim is to create a dashboard that will make the data available to everyone, from sailors to swimmers, to water companies, to the Environment Agency and Local Government. By measuring all these factors and comparing results against traditional testing, we can build the most comprehensive, continuous picture of how different factors affect the water in the harbour”

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Note to Editors

There will be a photocall at 10.30am on Friday 14th January at the Chichester Harbour Master's Office, Itchenor. There is an hour for interviews before the buoy is taken out to its mooring location a short distance into the Itchenor channel at 11.30am.

If you would like to attend/ arrange interviews, please contact Litmus Marketing Director Sean Curtis on 07769741941

Address:

**Chichester Harbour Masters Office
Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AW**

**Parking is available 100m from the harbour office:
Orchard Ln, Chichester PO20 7AE £2.20 for 2 hours**

Present at the launch and available for interview will be:

Sean Curtis, CMO, Litmus

Paul Evans, Commercial Director, Litmus

Professor Dave Cooper, Head of Business School, Chichester University

Maria Court, Press Officer, Chichester Harbour Conservancy will be in attendance

About Litmus

Litmus aims to provide Smart Monitoring for the planet.

Founded in 2021, Litmus is a technology start-up that aims to transform pollution monitoring. The original idea came from serial entrepreneur Julia McNally who already runs a successful air quality monitoring business. During early proof of concept work she joined forces with local Emsworth businessmen Sean Curtis and Paul Evans to develop the product and launch a harbour pilot project.

The first buoy will measure PH levels, ORP (Oxidation Reduction Potential), dissolved oxygen, conductivity and temperature. Following buoys will also be measuring nitrate and phosphates (common in fertilisers) and e-coli (sewage).

About Chichester Harbour

- * The smallest AONB in the Southeast
- * 74km², nearly half is tidal estuary
- * Seven marinas, 15 sailing clubs
- * Over 5,000 moorings
- * 86kms of shoreline

- * An average of 52,500 waterfowl each year
- * Over 10,000 boats
- * 45 hectares of semi-natural ancient woodland
- * The 7th largest area of saltmarsh in Great Britain
- * At least 25 Red Data book species of flora and fauna
- * 298 hectares of coastal grazing marsh
- * 25,000 people use the harbour for water-related activities each year
- * 10,500 residents
- * Internationally important for five species of waterfowl
- * Nationally important for eight species of waterfowl

Contact Details

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