# R&D AND INNOVATION INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY



# contents

04. 06.

Innovative technology

Renewable energy

16.

Infrastructures and sustainable transport

24.

Water technologies

# ACCIONA, pioneers in development and sustainability

ACCIONA is one of Spain's largest corporations, a leader in development and management activities in the areas of infrastructure, water, services and renewable energy management. The company boasts a century of experience and a workforce of over 30,000 dedicated professionals. It is present in over 30 countries on five continents, and in 2013 it posted €6.61 billion in sales. ACCIONA is listed on the selective Ibex-35 stock index and is a benchmark in the market.

ACCIONA focuses its strategy on economic growth, environmental balance and social progress. These are the keystones of its sustainability policy, which is part of a long-term company model, where business is closely intertwined with the challenges and opportunities of Sustainable Development. In the framework of these challenges, the company has implemented its advanced sustainability practices, articulated through its Master Plan (PDS 2015). Its objectives aim to contribute towards boosting the organization's competitiveness and to bolstering its position as a leader in sustainable practices.

Creating business value at ACCIONA is inconceivable without innovation. In 2013, the company allocated €173.2 million to R&D, including efforts to deploy its innovation processes in its main markets.

One of its specific commitments is to steadily reduce its carbon footprint and to lead the transition towards a low-carbon economy. In 2013, ACCIONA activities and business prevented the emission of more than 15 million tons of  ${\rm CO_2}$  into the atmosphere. In recognition of this commitment, the company has been included on such reputable sustainability indices as the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, FTSE4Good, MSCI ESG Index, STOXX®Sustainability, Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI) and the Carbon Performance Leadership Index (CPLI) lberia 2013.

## Innovative technology

In a globalized, competitive world where sustainable development is essential, innovation and the use of groundbreaking technology in projects, processes and business activities are part of a company's added value.

ACCIONA is no stranger to this concept, and innovation is the driving force behind the Group's evolution, both on the national and international stage.

Our Company has a longstanding commitment to R&D and Innovation, and has for many years invested both manpower and considerable financial resources in these projects. Under our 2010-2015 Sustainable Development Plan we will be investing €500M in research and development.

The excellence of our research and the quality of our development system have received the highest recognition, and we were the first group of our kind to obtain UNE 166002:2006 standard certification for our R&D Management System. Our management model also:

■ Protects industrial and intellectual property.

- Encourages Open Innovation by seeking out market openings for both technology and business.
- Fosters internal partnerships, synergies and technology pooling.
- Enables our technology to be included in a wide range of programs on a national, European and international level.

ACCIONA has technology centers in Madrid, Barcelona and Pamplona, focusing on sustainable building, water technology and renewable energy, respectively.







# ACCIONA ranks 461<sup>th</sup> in the global list of companies with the most investments in R&D and innovation

The company has climbed from the 620<sup>th</sup> position in 2012 and now stands as one of the top Spanish companies in the ranking.

We work on developing the most groundbreaking technology applied to the production of alternative energies, namely wind energy, photovoltaic and solar power and biomass. In the construction industry we develop new building materials, improve processes and focus on sustainable buildings; we also develop technology for desalination and wastewater treatment.

ACCIONA's work and dedication to technological innovation has earned it a place in the annual R&D Industrial Scoreboard drawn up by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research. In 2012, ACCIONA headed the list of electricity sector and construction industry companies.

The quality of our R&D and Innovation projects, meanwhile, has led to a number of industry awards, including the Innovation in Composite Materials Award, and the Global Water Intelligence Award. We are also present in all the major European technology platforms.

This combination of commitment and excellence has enabled ACCIONA to lead the field in the development of solutions and alternatives blending innovation and sustainability.

## Renewable energy

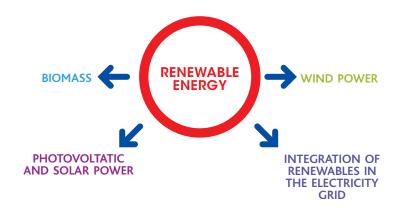
ACCIONA conducts research into alternative energies at its Technology Center in Pamplona (northeastern Spain), and tests the results of its research into wind turbines at its experimental wind farms.

Furthermore, the Group's various renewable energy power plants provide an ideal platform for implementing its pilot projects, improving processes and maintenance

engineering, and obtaining official certification for its technology.

In the field of applied innovation, ACCIONA tests and profiles the best technology available on the market and works on new products with various manufacturers to generate cheaper, more reliable energy.

Some of our most important lines of research are:



Renewable Energy Control Center. Sarriguren. Navarre (northeastern Spain).











# The 3 MW wind turbine has the largest sweep of any rotor in its market segment

#### A.- WIND TECHNOLOGY

ACCIONA focuses much of its research budget on wind power. Innovation in this field extends to all the Group's business areas: Wind park development and promotion (sustainability), O&M (grid integration), design, production and installation of wind turbines (new multimegawatt turbines and offshore wind farms).

The experimental wind farms transferred to ACCIONA allow the Group to test both their AW3000 models and

their concrete tower designs and prototypes.

- ■The 3 MW wind turbine and concrete tower is the latest technological achievement of the ACCIONA Wind power engineering team. A 3 MW wind turbine with the largest sweep of any rotor in its market segment and innovations that make it both reliable and strong.
- Under the CENIT Eolia and Azimut projects, new testing

systems and in-house analysis and structural tools for floating wind turbines have been developed.

All this research will culminate in the HIPRWind demonstration project, which will conclude with the installation and monitoring of the first floating wind turbine off the coast of Spain.

Offshore wind power is technologically challenging in many ways, and ACCIONA is currently researching the design and analysis of feasible locations, specific construction methods and sturdy and efficient wind turbines.

■ All projects focus on a common goal - to increase the integration of renewable energy into the power grid and make the latter more stable.

#### **B.- CONCENTRATING SOLAR POWER (CSP)**

ACCIONA is currently one of the largest operators, designers and constructors of parabolic cylinder-collector solar power plants in the world, and has 314 MW of capacity installed between Spain and the US.

ACCIONA has been operating solar power plants since 2007 and focuses on maximizing performance to increase production while ensuring the safest operating environment.

working on a number of areas of improvement, the most important being the optimization of steam turbine startup curves to (Direct Normal Irradiance) forecast tools in solar plant to improve operation and automation, together with

ACCIONA is currently maximize solar radiation, the integration of advanced DNI plant modeling.



A solar power plant in Majadas. Caceres (southwestern Spain).





# C.- IMPROVING GENERATION COSTS FOR BIOMASS ENERGY

ACCIONA operates three large electrical power plants fueled by energy crops and farm and forest waste products with an aggregate installed capacity of 56 MW.

The successful operation of these plants depends on fuel flexibility and use of the most readily available fuel source.

The challenge facing ACCIONA is that of optimizing the output of each plant while variegating the source of raw materials. To achieve this, it is working on the following areas:







- Introducing biomass analysis systems and advanced control systems to achieve uninterrupted operation of the boiler.
- Improving control of combustion parameters based on the type of fuel used, using the most efficient operating mode for any given situation.
- Analyzing the effect of each type of biomass used in the boiler and developing failure forecast technologies.

We are also introducing innovations in management and operation, with particular emphasis on:

- Innovation in the production of crops to increase the sustainability of the raw material produced.
- Characterization of new pretreatment technologies to make the biomass denser.
- Optimization of the supply chain and transport logistics, highlighting their sustainability and ensuring supply while bringing down costs.

Sangüesa Biomass Plant Navarre (northeastern Spain).







## D.- GRID CONNECTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES

ACCIONA has designed a renewable energy-based power plant capable of meeting the same operating standards as a conventional fossil fuel plant.

The system used can meet regulation set points sent by the system operator, and thus facilitate grid management.

The technology can be applied in countries where accumulation by regulation is or will shortly become mandatory.

ACCIONA chose its photovoltaic plant in Tudela to install what is the first 1MW+ storage system in Europe (ILIS PROJECT).

Energy storage and renewable energy manageability are the main lines of research in the field of energy.

The overall objective is to develop and apply management and storage solutions that allow greater integration of RE in the power grid and to improve the output of renewable energy generating infrastructures.

Photovoltaic Solar Plant. Tudela. Navarre (northeastern Spain).

### Infrastructure and sustainable transport

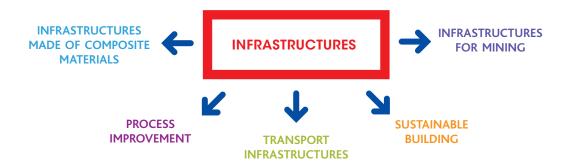
ACCIONA's Madrid
Technology Center
focuses on innovations
in infrastructures, the
environment and transport.
The Center occupies an area
of 3,500m² of offices and
laboratories, with a further
1,200m² of workshops
for manufacturing and
testing full scale building
elements. It also has 14
laboratories equipped
with state-of-the-art

equipment that specialize in the development of advanced materials and more sustainable building processes.

The workshops also research other areas such as eco-efficient buildings or biotechnology, infrastructures made of composite materials, and process improvement, amongst others.

The lines of research focus on developing the kind of commercial technology that will differentiate the Company from the rest, by bringing it as close to the business as possible and thus giving it a competitive edge in this sector.

This is achieved by a number of strategies.





## A.- APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO BUILDING PROCESSES

ACCIONA is successfully applying new technologies to processes and materials in order to optimize costs and improve the quality of the finished construction. This means using composite and sustainable materials, bioremediation, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and decontamination, together with improved building processes.

One of the most important new technologies is the Building Information Modeling (BIM) system, adapted by ACCIONA, capable of detecting construction faults and optimizing time and money by applying virtual reality to construction. This maximizes customer satisfaction by enabling clients to make changes and see the finished results of the project.

The use of information technology (ICT) during construction work gives added value by providing data and tools that help in the decision-making process.

ACCIONA is currently developing several ICT applications, such as the optimization of underground constructions and forecasting systems.











# The Company is fully engaged in developing building materials

#### **B.- DEVELOPMENT OF 3G ROAD SURFACES**

ACCIONA continues to work on developing materials for road surfaces, aiming to reduce both construction and maintenance costs. To achieve this, the Company is working on modifying existing materials by using different types of nanocharges capable of optimizing and improving their mechanical characteristics and resistance to different environmental and chemical weathering agents. This will prolong the life of road surfaces and

meet the current and future demands of the transport industry.

We are also protecting the environment by developing new kinds of asphalt that include recycled materials that would otherwise need to be transferred to dumping sites or used as fuel.

One example of this is the new access road to Alcalá de Henares from the M-300, where a new material made from recycled plastic and rubber tires has been used for the first time. The M-300 is the first road where this new type of asphalt has been tested within this project.

The use of these groundbreaking materials on road surfaces has many advantages: They improve the resistance of the asphalt, reducing both energy consumption and maintenance costs.

#### C.- NEW MATERIALS

The aim of developing and applying such innovative new composite materials is to improve the performance of conventional building materials, such as concrete.

Another new development has been the use of glass and carbon fiber composites in a polymeric resin mold, combined with a structural design that maximizes the excellent properties of this type of material.

These new composite materials have a number of advantages: They are top quality, lightweight, can easily be installed and loaded onto transport vehicles, and they are both waterproof and strong. Furthermore, because they do not rust, corrode or degrade, they need no maintenance and can reduce construction time. In other words, these materials overcome the type of construction problems that cannot be tackled with conventional materials.

Another example of our use of advanced materials is the self-compacting concrete used in the "Madrid Río" Project (pictured right).













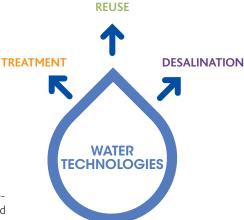
## Water technologies

ACCIONA Agua focuses its innovation strategy on technological leadership, both on the national and international stage, in the supply of good quality water by developing efficient, sustainable technologies that can improve social well-being, the economy, the environment and public health

The activities of the Barcelona Technology Center are particularly important for achieving these goals. It is here that ACCIONA undertakes its R&D and Innovation projects in a series of pilot plants for conducting field experiments.

The center has state-of-theart facilities for studying and developing water technologies, including our research laboratory.

These facilities are among the most advanced of their kind, and are equipped with the latest technology for analyzing and characterizing membranes, the most modern chromatography techniques, equipment for characterizing porosity and of organic contamination, for measuring membrane flow potential, and for examining new processes. We also have a microbiology laboratory equipped with the latest analytical technology.



With a highly qualified, experienced multidisciplinary team that conduct basic laboratory-based research, test our developments in pilot plants and then implement them in industry, with the help of powerful modeling programs at every stage of development, our company is at the spearhead of water technology and leads the field in our sector.

# Leading the way in desalination and water treatment technologies

#### A. DESALINATION

The characteristics of water to be desalinated vary from one plant to another. This makes each project a challenge and means that each treatment process will be different and must be designed according to the local situation.

In recent years we have been particularly successful in combining innovation with commercial requirements, developing products that are both technically superior and economical to implement and operate.

ACCIONA has developed different problem-specific solutions to improve desalination processes. Some of our most important projects have been the remineralization of the desalinated water produced by the Beckton plant (UK), technological

improvements to the reverse osmosis membranes in the desalination plants in Adelaide (Australia) and Fouka (Algeria), advanced pretreatment to eliminate algae in desalination plants such as that at Copiapó (Chile), where we treat the water used in mining operations.

At the pre-treatment stage, ACCIONA has developed various technologies, such as the ultra-rapid filtration system (ULTRAFLOT®), underwater filtration systems (SEPAFLOC) and the ACTIDAFF® countercurrent flotation system, all of which have been patented and provide ACCIONA with a competitive edge.

All these developments have greatly added to our know-how and will be incorporated into future projects.

Beckton Desalination Plant London (UK).













#### **B. TREATMENT**

In the field of water treatment, ACCIONA is involved in two strategic projects: Sludge minimization and treatment, and optimizing treatment plant energy requirements.

The aim of sludge minimization and treatment is to first reduce energy consumption in sludge treatment operations, and secondly to enhance the sustainability of the treatment process.

We never lose sight of the need to improve processes and overcome problems encountered in water treatment plants. Among the latest technologies we have developed are the application of membrane technology to water treatment processes (MEMPACK®) and the ELFA® process that uses nitrite to eliminate the nitrogen content of sludge return water.

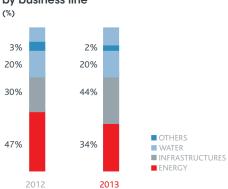
Wastewater Treatment Plant. Arroyo Culebro. Madrid.

# ACCIONA and innovation in figures

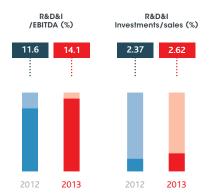
## Innovation amount (millions euros)



# Innovation amount by business line

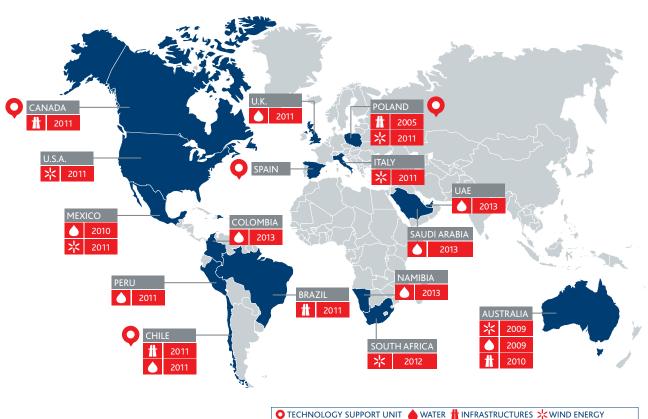


#### Innovation activity





## International scope of innovation



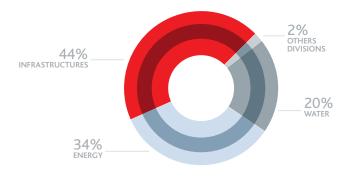




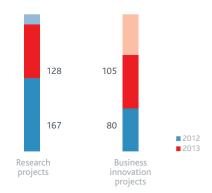
ACCIONA is developing innovative technologies outside Spain. These innovations are being

applied to projects currently being undertaken in Canada, the US, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Poland and Australia, and are distributed by company division as follows:

#### Innovation projects, by business line (%)



#### Project portfolio



Avda. de Europa, 18 Parque Empresarial La Moraleja 28108 Alcobendas (Madrid). Spain

Twitter: @acciona\_en

www.acciona.com

