

This project is funded by the European Union

WATER TREATMENT

DEFINITION

Water treatment refers to processes that affect water quality to make it appropriate for a specific end-use. The end use may be drinking, industrial water supply, irrigation, river flow maintenance, water recreation and others, including the safe return of water to the natural environment.

TECHNOLOGIES



Water efficiency



Water treatment / Water sewage treatment



Water quality monitoring and control



Rainwater reuse



Desalination



Potable water solutions

MARKET OPPORTUNITY MEXICO

WATER TREATMENT

Market overview

Mexico is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its geographical location and socioeconomic context. Water-related risks are a key problem: prolonged droughts and overexploited aquifers are expected to further endanger the country's water supply system.

Key business opportunities for European companies

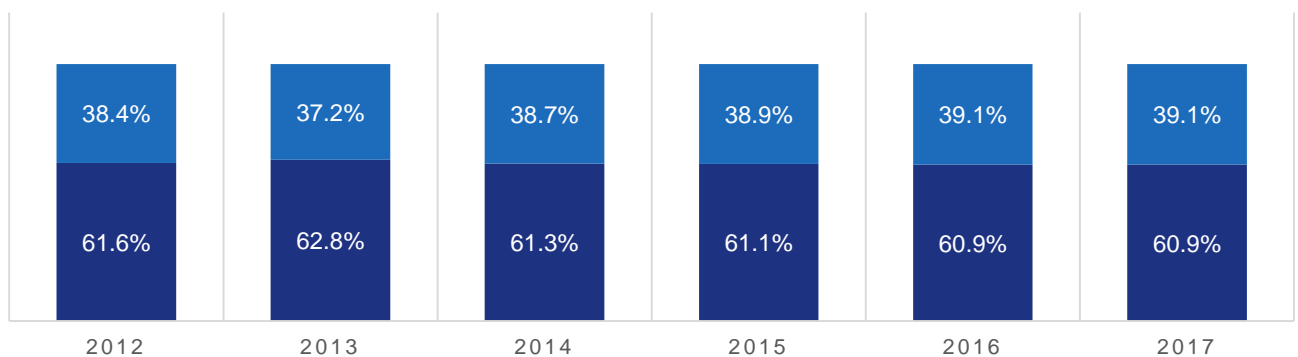
- Efficient, safe and cost-effective water treatment technologies and solutions** for approximately 3,517 abandoned treatment plants throughout the national territory with a capacity of close to 200 thousand liters per second. These plants have poor planning, high operating costs, and poor design. The technologies used in the past decades have been expensive and inefficient, using significant amounts of electrical energy and chemicals.
- Smart irrigation systems for agriculture** that seek to reduce costs by saving water. A pilot test showed a 20% saving of water in a mango plantation.
- Mexico's main mortgage provider promotes the use of **eco-friendly water technologies** such as rainwater collection systems for households. In 2020, they granted 39,758 green mortgages.
- Baja California Sur will publish a **USD 240 million tender to construct a desalination plant in Los Cabos** and to **provide integral improvements to Cabo San Lucas City's water distribution system**.
- Rainwater management and aquifer solutions.** Municipalities are beginning to require new commercial developments to manage the rainwater generated on their properties. This includes pre-treatment, storage and infiltration to recharge aquifers.

Sector highlight

The next graph shows water used for industrial purposes by source.

CONSUMPTIVE VOLUME ALLOCATED FOR USE BY SOURCE, 2012-2017 (PERCENTAGE)

■ Superficial ■ Underground



Source: CONAGUA (Federal water authority)



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Sector insights

The provisions under Mexico's General Water Law aim to promote, respect, protect and guarantee the human right to water and sanitation, as well as define the bases, principles, support and modalities for the management, administration, and integral use of water.

Drivers

- In the last decade, Mexico increased its water treatment activities from approx. 40% in 2010 to 57% in 2017. Many municipal facilities continue to operate under inefficiencies and below capacity level due to low investment and costly maintenance. This provides strong opportunities for water treatment technology providers.
- There has been an increase in private initiatives and public-private partnerships (PPPs) to provide creative solutions for the water supply system and ensure the healthy development of infrastructure and water projects.

Barriers

- The number of overexploited aquifers in Mexico has increased from 101 to 115 (out of 653).
- There continues to be a lack of sufficient regulations for the use and exploitation of water.
- The construction of water treatment plants may incur resistance from local communities.

Case study

A **global technology company** publicly announced a plan to invest USD 1.1 billion to deliver intelligence, security and a reliable cloud in Mexico through the establishment of data centers. A data center will require approx. 465 liters of water for cooling. The project will require efficient water treatment solutions that will also ensure water safety and access by communities and inhabitants both human and non-human, in the surrounding area.

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