

Can innovative technologies innovate contaminated land remediation and management practices?

Dr.Joop J. Vegter



COMMON FORUM

VA

The problem

- **3,5 million potentially contaminated sites in Europe**
- **Some € 2,1 million is spent for remediation each year**
- **Many national and EU RTD programmes addressing soil remediation techniques**
- **INTERREG (EU funds for regional development) financed many concrete redevelopment projects involving contaminated land**
- **But market uptake of new technologies is low**

Possible solutions

- **Communication, training and education, publicity**
 - But will this reach the audience?
 - Local decision makers are very busy and trust only their colleagues
- **Stimulate networking and communities of practice**
- **The decision makers have to deal with supervising authorities and stakeholders.**
 - Have to be convinced by practical examples

Existing measures

- **The EC Environmental Technology Action Plan**
 - **Aim: boosting environmental technologies and innovation.**
 - **But: outputs have been relatively ineffective in the field of remediation**
 - **Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) initiative is only partly suitable for the field of remediation.**

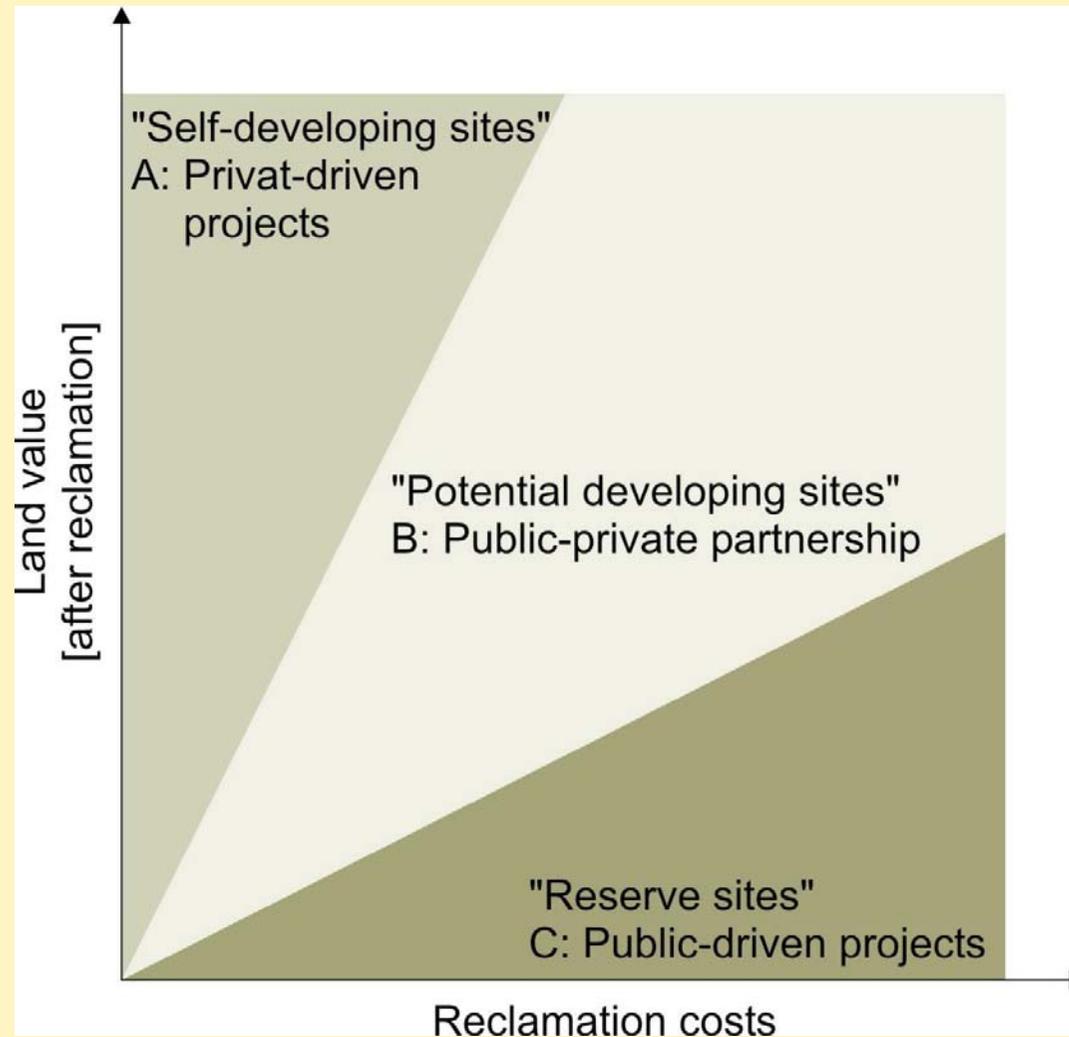
Techniques are only a part of the solution

Interreg experiences



- **Integrate risk assessment, remediation and redevelopment in a single process**
 - Flexible spatial planning
 - Long term perspective
 - Sharing of cost and financial risks
- **Make decisions as soon as possible and accept uncertainties**
- **Involve stakeholders and possible funders from the start**
- **Use independent advisors**
- **Communicate the quality of the solution instead of the risk of pollution**

Economics of Brownfield redevelopment (CABERNET)



Eurodemo

- **Eurodemo FP6 project (2005)**
 - Information about demo projects and possibilities for financing
 - Linking with endusers by identifying their needs
 - Promoting confidence in new technologies by giving indications for their use and efficiency
 - Disseminating information to stakeholders and endusers in workshops and through a well designed website
- **Eurodemo+ (2009, on a voluntary basis)**
 - Create a pan-European network of National/Regional Demonstration Platforms
 - Federal Environment Agency in Austria being the secretariat until the end of 2010.
 - A European information platform for credible knowledge and technology transfer
 - Support technology transfer for use within Europe and to the global market
 - Increase the demonstration and implementation of sustainable and cost-effective remediation technologies across Europe

The Consoil workshop 2008

- **Organised by EURODEMO, COMMON FORUM and NICOLE**
 - **COMMON FORUM - Common Forum on Contaminated Land in the European Union**
 - » discussion platform on policy, research, technical and managerial concepts of contaminated land.
 - » Members are experts in the contaminated land field from national, regional ministries and agencies from EU countries and European Free Trade Association countries.
 - **NICOLE - Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe**
 - » network for the stimulation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge about all aspects of industrially contaminated
 - » members come from industrial companies, service providers/technology developers, universities, independent research organisations, and governmental organisations.
- **Conclusions**
 - All participants recognised the problem
 - The next step should be a common position paper from the three networks

Common position paper

- **General objectives**

- present an overview of causes for the low market penetration;
- show that the key to improvement is informed and science based decision making;
- show that additional activities are needed to enhance common European efforts towards a better environment;
- provide concrete suggestions for an action plan.

- **Action plan**

- To stimulate the application of innovative remediation techniques;
- To create a demonstration programme, including stakeholder involvement and training, for application of innovative techniques in Europe;
- To compile of a joint 'memory' database, to ensure accessibility of relevant experience to all stakeholders;

Difficulties

- **Target audience:**
 - Are we lobbying our own governments?
- **A database with preferred and proven technologies limits the freedom choosing alternative technologies**
 - In situ technologies are “in situ” unique designs
- **Who will take up the challenge of a European “stimulation programme”**
 - Appropriate EC institution (like EEA, JRC) is lacking
 - Has as much to do with EU economy, as with environment and research

It is clearly a complex cross-cutting issue

Any suggestions how to promote innovative remediation?

Thank you for listening !



COMMON FORUM

VA