



RWS INFORMATION

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memo

Presentation of Business Case Infravation

The international programme Infravation was launched in September 2015. Within the programme, with funding of around 10 million euro raised by 11 countries and the EU, research projects were undertaken, aimed at accelerating the application of promising innovations in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges (www.infravation.net). The Infravation programme will be concluded at the end of this year.

The application of these innovative solutions will lead to lower costs, less traffic disruption and less impact on the environment. This makes them relevant for many road managers. The innovations have been delivered at TRL 7, meaning that each has been tested and has demonstrated its functional capacity in real-world settings.

However they are not yet commercially available. They must first be scaled up. Companies will have to establish production lines and before any innovation from Infravation can be applied on a large scale experience will first have to be acquired, in practice. To give one example, in SureBridge, concrete bridges and viaducts are reinforced using composites. The specialists at Rijkswaterstaat see this as an interesting innovation, but practical experience will first have to be acquired with the application of bridge railings and transition joints.

On my instructions, the innovations from Infravation which offered the most potential for Rijkswaterstaat were investigated, so that Rijkswaterstaat can contribute to the scaling up process. I am pleased to present you with the report of that investigation, undertaken by an engineering firm. The report suggests that the innovations that offer the greatest potential for Rijkswaterstaat are SUREbridge and HEALroad. Other solutions may be more suitable for other road managers.

At present, a search is underway in the assets managed by Rijkswaterstaat for locations suitable for a first application of HEALroad and SUREbridge. It is my hope that in the future all of the innovations from Infravation will be successfully scaled up.

Kind regards,

Cees Brandsen
Managing director Rijkswaterstaat Water, Transport and Environment