

## Our questions about the project Ebergötzen

*Interview with our customer Dr. Jürgen Grotheer from the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Geographical Institute.*

### **How would you rate the cooperation with ecoTech after five years of project time including annual maintenance?**

The cooperation between us ran smoothly without any issues, which I see as the exception rather than the rule in my rather long time at the University of Göttingen. The fact that annual maintenance work was included in this project, which was initially planned for five years, is the absolute exception. In other projects, there has always been a lack of funding for this. Although the scope of work for maintenance cannot be predicted, the relevance of planned annual maintenance increases with the duration of the project. In retrospect, the first maintenance could perhaps have been spread out over a longer period of time, while the later maintenance should have been scheduled more extensively. There was always more work to be done during the annual maintenance than the time available. All specifically agreed upon annual maintenance work was carried out in a targeted manner and was absolutely problem-free, both technically and in terms of interpersonal relations.

### **Could the scientific questions be answered with the project's equipment selection?**

No, that wasn't the plan either. The very extensive instrumentation serves as basic equipment. Projects with very specific questions are to be acquired from colleagues. Since the basic equipment is already available, only the specific required specialist additional equipment has to be purchased. In addition, the environment is used for teaching purposes beyond the instrumented measurement plots. Depending on the question, additional equipment (often small devices) was and is also used for this purpose.

### **Why did you choose ecoTech when awarding the contract?**

I held intensive discussions with several companies before awarding the contract. ecoTech provided by far the most intensive input on the individual project issues.

### **Where were there problems with technology or communication?**

I was negatively surprised by the workmanship of the rain gauges. Here, the rivets of the negative pole wiring on the battery have come loose on numerous devices, although this part of the device has not even been touched after installation. This is clearly a case of poor workmanship.

### **How should ecoTech avoid these problems in the future?**

I suspect that the problems described only occurred with a certain production batch. ecoTech can of course only react after such a defect has become known. ecoTech will certainly take a critical look at the riveting in the future.

### **How did ecoTech prepare the project?**

This point is dominant and decisive in an overall view of the relationship with ecoTech. The intensity and attention to detail in the preparation of all individual questions was impressive and characterised by a high level of expertise. No wish, no question, no criticism was left unconsidered.

### **How did the installation by ecoTech proceed?**

Very well prepared in Bonn and very well coordinated in the team on the measurement plots. Everything went according to plan, even work that has never been done in the desired way (stem flow) was well prepared and thoroughly executed.

### What would you do differently today?

The soil solution extraction needs to be made up of individually disconnectable bottles. We did not consider this at the beginning. Even the subsequently installed horizontal disconnection option is insufficient. For this reason, we have already commissioned - in consultation with ecoTech - a hoses system with individual disconnectable sections.

### Would you recommend ecoTech to others?

Yes, at any time. The previous answers do not allow any other conclusion.



Tipping bucket rain gauge with remote radio logger



Pre-assembled system for recording the stem flow



Distribution cabinet with enviLog data loggers as well as SDI-12 and analogue distributors



Weather station with snow height sensor and net radiometer, as well as further standard weather monitoring sensors



Aluminium box with electronic vacuum control, power supply and collection bottles for the suction plate system

ecoTech Umwelt-Messsysteme GmbH  
Klara-M.-Faßbinder-Str. 1A  
53121 Bonn

+49 228 850447700  
ecotech@ecotech.de  
www.ecotech.de