

AquaStage presentation yesterday on water sector security



Water security consultant
Arjan Meijer speaking at the
AquaStage in Hall 2 yesterday

Arjan Meijer, a security consultant with security experts Hudson Cybertec, led the first Aquastage presentation in Hall 2 yesterday, warning that the water industry is facing serious and potentially extremely

damaging cyber security risks.

He highlighted major attacks that have already hit the infrastructure sector including a major attack on Russian gas giant Gazprom's systems and a hack-induced failure of a water

pump monitoring system in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, that left residents without water. Another attack that affected wastewater pumps and pump stations in Veere, The Netherlands, 'could have had a bad impact on the environment,' Mr Meijer noted, as the area is below sea level.

Mr Meijer outlined the various types of threats including the most dangerous, a deliberate external attack. 'Sometimes this can happen without you knowing, because they can control

what you see and can control how the system functions,' he warned.

He warned that some industrial control systems (ICS) are extremely vulnerable to scanning, and even simple 'ping' scans may crash them.

The threat to global water systems is significant, he confirmed, noting that the Netherlands has undertaken a cyber security benchmark of all its water companies against set standards, though the results have not been made public. ●