Industrial partners on MIST: from scientific insight to practical impact

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A key strength of the MIST project lies in its close collaboration with industrial partners. To better understand how MIST is perceived from practice, we spoke with three very different partners: **Orange Climate**, **Kuijpers**, and **Signify**. Together, their perspectives highlight a shared ambition: translating scientific knowledge on airborne infection control into actionable insights for buildings, standards, and society.

Bridging science and practice: the need for clear indicators

For **Orange Climate**, a Dutch manufacturer and installer of ventilation and indoor climate systems, the central challenge is communication. According to **Bert van Dorp**, Technical Director at Orange Climate, non-expert clients and building owners need **simple, and practical indicators** to understand indoor air quality and infection risks.

Just as CO_2 has become a widely accepted proxy for ventilation, Bert hopes that MIST will contribute to **clear, communicable metrics or labels** that capture building health and safety in a way that non-experts can grasp. From his perspective, the real value of MIST lies in translating complex scientific findings into methodologies that can inform **standards, regulations, and everyday decision-making**.

Orange Climate sees strong added value in activities that bring science closer to practice, such as **webinars**. These interactions help bridge the gap between academic research and real-world product development, while also inspiring engineers, operators, and sales teams.

Raising the level of discussion: learning from implementation

Where Orange Climate focuses on indicators and communication, **Paul Joosten** of **Kuijpers** emphasizes the importance of **abstraction and focus**. Kuijpers is a large installation engineering firm active in complex buildings such as laboratories, hospitals, and life-science facilities. While not a manufacturer, the company implements ventilation, filtration, and cleanroom technologies in practice.

Paul values the scientific insights generated within MIST, particularly where they can support **regulatory change** or improve the translation of research into implementation. His advice to MIST is to “step one level up”: focus less on individual products, such as specific air-cleaning devices. and more on **underlying principles**, such as ventilation strategies, aerosol behavior, and system performance. He also cautions against discussions becoming overly supplier-driven, which can risk shifting attention from shared knowledge development to commercial positioning.

This report is a summary of interviews with industrial partners, and part of the MIST project with project number P20-35 of the research programme Perspectief, which is financed by the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

Measuring what matters: Signify's perspective

For **Signify**, the global leader in professional lighting and long-standing developer of **UV-C disinfection technologies**, MIST represents a fundamentally academic programme with strong practical relevance. **Marc de Samber** and **Martin Creusen** describe the project as an opportunity to strengthen the scientific foundation needed for future **guidelines, standards, and policy**.

A recurring theme in their interview is the importance of measurement. "Measuring is knowing," they argue. Today, indoor air quality and infection risks are largely assessed through indirect indicators such as CO_2 or clinical testing. Signify hopes that MIST can contribute to **better methods for detecting pathogens in air**, ideally in (semi-) real-time, and to robust studies that quantify the effectiveness of interventions such as UV-C, filtration, and ventilation.

Beyond technology, Signify stresses the importance of **awareness:** "Food is a topic everyone has an opinion about. Air is not". We are highly sensitive to the quality of food and water, yet largely unaware of the air we breathe, despite inhaling thousands of liters each day. For Signify, MIST is therefore not only a research project, but also a platform to elevate public and professional understanding of indoor air as a critical health factor.

Looking ahead: collaboration in all phases of MIST

Across all three interviews, there is strong support for the direction of MIST and a shared expectation that the final project phase will deliver **concrete, practice-relevant outcomes**. Industrial partners are particularly interested in:

- Clear results that can inform **standards, tenders, and policy discussions.**
- **Webinars** and concise presentations that translate research into action.
- Opportunities for visibility and exchange, such as **factory visits, site demonstrations, and interviews.**

Importantly, several partners also express willingness to help disseminate MIST results through their own networks, standards committees, and professional organizations.

Together, these perspectives underline the unique role of MIST: not as a product development programme, but as a **knowledge platform** where science, policy, and practice meet. By continuing to connect rigorous research with real-world challenges, MIST can help ensure that the air we breathe indoors becomes demonstrably safer, well beyond the lifetime of the project itself.

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WP5 - MIST project team

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