



# Ekaterina Shilova

CEO of AJELIS SAS

**Main product:** Metalicapt® and Geocapt®

**Aim:** To create fibre sorbents as a new generation of waste water treatment and metal extraction materials



ajelis.com

AJELIS

## Fibres for a cleaner world

### The project

#### The idea

We design and produce fibres for water and air pollution control, as well as for metal recycling and repurposing. Our new generation of materials makes it possible to selectively capture pollutants.

**“To start a business, you don’t need a lot of money... You need curiosity.”**

#### Inspiration

It all comes from the field: we received requests from the industry. In 2010, nuclear industry players asked us to create caesium decontamination material. The ball started rolling and we kept on developing and improving our products.

#### Unique selling points

Compared to competitors, our fibres are at least 10 times quicker, and are very effective at both metal high and trace level concentrations. Moreover, they can be converted to any different textile forms, and be applied where current granular materials cannot.

#### Societal impact

With AJELIS, we intend to preserve the planet by offering water cleaning solutions, recycling high value metals and treating radioactive waste. All these issues are and will remain vital. Our mission is therefore to enhance everyone’s quality of life through our work “behind the curtains”.

#### EIT Community support

EIT business developers really helped us “burst out of our bubble” with their financial and consulting support, industrial contacts and helpful advice like business and time management tips.

Supported by:



**Start year:**  
2014

**Challenge:**  
Waste cleaning and recycling

**Prizes:**  
Woman of Innovation 2018 by L’Usine Nouvelle, France, designated as one of the “100 French people who inspire us” in 2018 (L’Express France), Worldwide Innovation Challenge for rare earths recovery from hi-tech waste (2014)

### Overcoming adversity

Today at AJELIS, we implement our materials to metallurgical factories which are mostly men’s territory. In the beginning, I feared how my clients would react to a young woman coming to their factory in a plumber’s suit, climbing into their machines with her tools... But I was always positively perceived!

### The nominee

#### The beginning

My childhood dream was to create something that could save the world from nuclear disasters. After meeting two fantastic scientists during my PhD, the dream team was complete and AJELIS came into existence.

#### Rewarding moments

To launch my first synthetic company in Russia, I had to build my own laboratory from scratch, with only the materials that were at hand. It seemed a difficult challenge at the beginning, but it turned out to be a great success.

