# REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

# Assessment and Repair/Replacement Technologies for Water Infrastructure

## Solicitation # 2026-SWB-20

**Proposal Due Date: April 30, 2026**
**Proposal Due Time: 4:00 PM CDT**

**Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans**
**2026-SWB-20**
**Request for Information**
**Assessment of Repair/Replacement Technologies for Water Infrastructure**

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather information from qualified vendors, manufacturers, consultants, research institutions, and technology providers regarding current and emerging technologies for detection, prediction, and condition assessment of water mains.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a competitive solicitation resulting in an awarded contract.

RFI will be available **March 27, 2026**, for download at the following websites:

SWBNO: https://www2.swbno.org/business_bidspecifications.asp
LAPAC: https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/dspBid.cfm?search=department&term=181

Inquiries and/or Requests for Clarification are due to **Kevin Smith, on April 10, 2026, no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT** via in writing or email to ksmith6@swbno.org. All responses will be posted in addendum on or before **April 17, 2026.**

Proposals will be received by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Procurement Department by **April 30, 2026, by 4:00 p.m. (CDT)**. For submission instructions, see proposal documents.

**LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## PART I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### 1.1 Request for Information

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather information from qualified vendors, manufacturers, consultants, research institutions, and technology providers regarding current and emerging technologies for detection, prediction, and condition assessment of water mains.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a competitive solicitation resulting in an awarded contract.

### 1.2 Proposal Preparation

Proposals submitted for consideration should follow the format provided in the Scope of Information.

### 1.3 Point of Contact/ Inquiries/ Requests for Information:

All correspondence and other communications regarding this RFI shall be directed to **Kevin Smith, Procurement Analyst**, Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, 625 St. Joseph Street, Room 133, New Orleans, Louisiana 70165, **504-585-2126, ksmith6@swbno.org**.

Inquiries and/or Requests for Information are due to the Board's Procurement Department via email to ksmith6@swbno.org no later than timeline stated in the **Anticipated Proposal Timetable**. Any request received after that time may not be reviewed for inclusion in this RFI. The request shall contain the requester's name, address, and telephone number.

### 1.4 Questions and Answers

Inquiries and/or Requests for Clarification are due to **Kevin Smith, on April 10, 2026, no later than 5:00 pm CDT** via in writing or email to ksmith6@swbno.org. All responses will be posted on or before **April 17, 2026.** Do not contact other SWBNO program personnel with questions regarding this RFI.

The Procurement Department will issue a response to any inquiry if it deems it necessary, by written addendum to the RFI, posted on Board's website, and issued prior to the RFI's Delivery Deadline. The Respondents shall not rely on any representation, statement or explanation other than those made in this RFI or in any addenda issued. Where there appears to be a conflict between this RFI and any addendum issued, the last addendum issued will prevail.

### 1.5 Submission of Proposals

Proposers who are interested in providing information on the services requested under this RFI can submit a proposal via email.

**Submitting a response**:

**Electronic Submission:**

(1) Digitally signed technical proposal in searchable PDF format to **bids@swbno.org**

Subject Line: **2026-SWB-20 – Assessment of Repair/Replacement Technologies for Water Infrastructure**

– [Proposer Name]". If the file size of the email submission exceeds server requirements, the email submission may be broken into smaller emails with "Part 1 of #" included at the end of each original Subject Line (e.g. RFI# marked **2026-SWB-20 – Assessment of Repair/Replacement Technologies for Water Infrastructure** – [Proposer Name] – Part 1 of 3)".

**Email:** If the Proposer intends to submit the response by email, the date and time of the email received by the Procurement Dept. constitutes the time stamp of receipt. The date and time of the email sent by Proposer does NOT constitute a proof of receipt. The Procurement Dept. encourages Proposers to confirm that the response was received timely.

Board assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete e-mail transmission and receipt. The responsibility solely lies with each Proposer to ensure their proposal is received at the specified email address prior to the deadline for submission. Proposals received after the deadline, corrupted files, and incomplete submissions (e.g. Part 1 and Part 2 of 3 are received, but Part 3 is not) may not be considered.

Fax submission will not be acceptable. Proposers e-mailing their proposals should allow sufficient time to ensure receipt of their proposal by the time specified.

Proposals should clearly demonstrate the Proposer's qualifications to perform the needed services and attend all factors applicable in a professional relationship.

All proposals must be received by Board on or before the Delivery Deadline. Proposals delivered after the said deadline will not be accepted.

## 1.6 Ownership

All Responses, including any submitted documents, to this RFI or any resulting solicitation are the property of the Board for all purposes. Respondents must clearly mark individual documents or information that the applicant claims are exempt from public record disclosure and specifically justify the exemption. The Board does not guarantee the confidentiality of submissions.

## 1.7 Effect

This RFI and any related discussions, evaluations, qualifications, or resulting solicitations by the Board or any person on its behalf create no rights or obligations whatsoever except as provided in this RFI. The Board may cancel or modify this RFI or any resulting solicitation at any time at will, with or without notice. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, any professional services agreement executed by the Board will be issued the exclusive statement of rights and obligations extending from this solicitation.

## 1.8 Errors or Omissions

The Board will not be liable for any error in any proposal. Proposers will not be allowed to alter proposal documents after the deadline for proposal submission, except under the following condition: The Board reserves the right to make corrections or clarifications due to patent errors identified in proposals by the Board or the Respondent. The Board, at its option, has the right to require clarification or additional information from the Respondent.

## 1.9 Cost of Preparation

The Board is not liable for any costs incurred by prospective Respondents or Contractors prior to issuance of or entering into a Contract. Costs associated with developing the proposal, preparing for oral presentations, and any other expenses incurred by the Respondent in responding to the RFI are entirely the responsibility of the Respondent, and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the Board.

## 1.10 RFI Schedule Summary

The events and dates summarized in the table below represent milestones in SWBNO's RFI process; however, SWBNO reserves the right to deviate from this schedule.

**Anticipated RFI Schedule Summary**

| Event | Date | Local Time |
|---|---|---|
| RFP Release | 3/27/2026 | |
| Deadline for Questions | 4/10/2026 | 5:00 p.m. |
| Responses to Questions | 4/17/2026 | |
| Proposal due date and time | 4/30/2026 | 4:00 p.m. |

## 1.11 Public Records Request

To request a public record for the proposal documents, please submit to the following website: https://swbno.nextrequest.com/

## PART II. SCOPE/PROPOSAL INFORMATION

### Purpose

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather information from qualified vendors, manufacturers, consultants, research institutions, and technology providers regarding current and emerging technologies for detection, prediction, and condition assessment of water mains.

This RFI is not a solicitation for bids, proposals, or quotes and will not result in a contract award.

### Background

SWBNO manages a large and aging water distribution network with significant operational, environmental, and community impacts when failures occur. Breaks and leaks contribute to:

- Service disruption,
- Customer claims and property impacts,
- Roadway damage,
- Water loss and increased production costs,
- Emergency repair expenses,
- Reduced operating resilience.

To improve reliability and proactively manage risk, SWBNO seeks to evaluate technology solutions that can assist in identifying existing leaks, predicting future failures, monitoring structural conditions, managing pressure transients within the network, and repair/ rehabilitate/ replace water pipelines.

The results of this RFI may inform future competitive solicitations, pilot projects, capital planning, and asset management initiatives.

### Supplemental Information

<u>New Orleans Geology</u>

Southern Louisiana is built on a landscape formed almost entirely by sediment deposited by the Mississippi River, creating extensive deltas, floodplains, wetlands, and coastal marshes. These environments produce soils that are often water-saturated and highly compressible, especially in the southern part of the state.

The dominant soil types in the region include:

- Soft clays and silts with low shear strength and high compressibility, which can lead to challenges such as subsidence and low bearing capacity.

- Holocene alluvial deposits and coastal marsh soils, which are rich in organic material but mechanically weak. These deposits are well-mapped by statewide geologic surveys.

Water tables are typically very high, and the soil often remains saturated, contributing to instability and requiring specialized engineering approaches for foundations, infrastructure, and flood-protection systems. We recommend that respondents consider the Pile Load Capacity Maps posted on the City of New Orleans website:

https://nola.gov/pile-load-capacity/

SWBNO Water Distribution System

SWBNO provides driving water services to 140,000 accounts and millions of visitors each year. The distribution system includes 1,600 miles of drinking water piping. 34% of our mains are over 100 years old. SWBNO has a variety of pipe materials throughout the water distribution system including asbestos cement, cast iron, ductile iron, polycabronate, polyvinyl chloride, and steel.

Our largest mains, piping over 20” in diameter, are called transmission mains. Any breaks along these portions of mains are a major disruption for New Orleanians and can result in flooding, a drop in water pressures, and as a result boil water advisory. A focus for immediate conditional assessment and targeted repair efforts will be on our transmission mains that are over 100 years old and beyond their usable life. Water pressure for water main replacement consideration is generally a minimum of 40 psi and maximum of 80 psi.

Transmission Mains (20” +) Composition: Older than 100 years

| Pipe Diameter | Material | # Pipe Segments | Sum Length (ft) | Miles |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Cast Iron | 564 | 92,130 | 17.4 |
| 24 | Cast Iron | 163 | 30,503 | 5.8 |
| 30 | Cast Iron | 126 | 30,040 | 5.7 |
| 36 | Cast Iron | 16 | 1,483 | 0.3 |
| 42 | Cast Iron | 9 | 2,810 | 0.5 |
| 43 | Cast Iron | 6 | 1,120 | 0.2 |
| 48 | Cast Iron | 13 | 6,921 | 1.3 |
| 50 | Cast Iron | 4 | 979 | 0.2 |

## Scope of Information Requested

SWBNO seeks information on technologies, tools, methodologies, and services in the following categories:

### *Assessment Technologies*

A. Leak Detection Technologies
Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Acoustic leak detection (mobile or fixed)
- Satellite-based SAR leak identification
- Fiber-optic distributed acoustic sensing (DAS)
- Drone-based thermal or infrared assessment
- Correlators and ground microphones for non-metallic pipes

B. Condition Assessment Technologies
Including but not limited to:

- PCCP, DI/CI, steel, PVC, AC, and HDPE mains
- Electromagnetic inspection tools for PCCP
- Inline leak detection (free-swimming or tethered tools)
- Non-destructive evaluation (NDE) and structural assessment techniques
- Soil corrosivity and cathodic protection monitoring
- Predictive Analytics and Data-Driven tools

### *Pipe Repair and Replacement Technologies*

SWBNO is requesting information regarding technologies, methods, and materials used to repair, rehabilitate, or replace water pipelines of various sizes and materials (CI, DI, PVC, HDPE, steel, PCCP).

Vendors are encouraged to provide information on traditional, trenchless, and structural rehabilitation solutions, including but not limited to:

A. Trenchless Rehabilitation Technologies
Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP): Applications for potable water pressure pipes; structural rating, pressure class, resin systems, installation constraints, QA/QC requirements.
- Sliplining: Use of HDPE, fusible PVC, or other carrier pipes within host pipes; diameter loss considerations and hydraulic implications.

- Swagelining / Tight-Fit Lining: Deformed-reformed or mechanically expanded liners providing close-fit structural renewal.
- Spray-Applied Structural Liners (Cementitious or Polymer): Application thickness, curing considerations, long-term structural performance, and corrosion protection.

B. Point Repairs and Localized Rehabilitation
Examples include but are not limited to:

- Mechanical clamps for pressurized mains
- Bell-joint repair sleeves
- Carbon-fiber reinforcement systems
- Internal joint seals
- Excavation minimization methods
- Methods appropriate for unstable soils or subsidence zones

C. Full Replacement Technologies
Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Unique open-cut methods:
  - Opportunities beyond the traditional open-cut method
  - Work zone footprint, safety considerations, and restoration requirements
  - Speed of installation across various pipe diameters
- Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD):
  - Suitable pipe types
  - Maximum practical diameters
  - Soil compatibility
- Pipe Bursting:
  - Upsizing potential
  - Constraints around adjacent utilities
  - Noise/vibration considerations

## Information Requested from Respondents

Respondents are asked to provide the following in searchable .pdf format:

1. Company Information
    - Cover Letter
    - Legal business name
    - Point of contact
    - Brief history and areas of expertise
2. Technology Description
    - Overview of technology
    - Technical basis (e.g., electromagnetic, radar, acoustic, ML models)
    - Maturity (technology readiness level - TRL)
    - Applicable pipe materials and diameters
    - Environmental constraints, climate conditions
    - Data accuracy and performance metrics
    - Design service life assumptions
    - Compliance with applicable standards
    - Inspection/Maintenance programs following installation
3. Deployment Requirements
    - Deployment scenarios best suited for product (e.g. transmission mains, narrow streets, critical customer areas, etc.)
    - Field crew needs, setup, and runtime
    - Access requirements (valves, hydrants, manholes, insertion points)
    - Traffic control needs
    - Any limitations (weather, soil, noise, flow interruptions)
4. Data Deliverables
    - Example output formats (GIS, PDF, dashboard, APIs)
    - Confidence intervals and uncertainty ranges
    - Integration capabilities with SWBNO systems
    - Data ownership and retention considerations
5. Case Studies

- Comparable utility applications
- Documented outcomes such as leaks found, break risk reduced, NRW reduction, or avoided failures

6. Optional Information
    - High-level cost drivers
    - Components of General Pricing Model
    - Typical scale of deployment (miles/day, sensors installed/day, feet replaced or repaired/day)