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NORTHERN IRELAND WATER ADOPTS SATELLITE LEAK DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

Northern Ireland Water is reaching for the stars by using leading-edge satellite leak detection technology in its aim to cut leakage to sustainable levels.

SUEZ Smart & Environmental Solutions and technology partner, ASTERRA UK, have been appointed to supply ASTERRA Recover satellite leak detection services to Northern Ireland Water Ltd.

The contract, worth £2 million over four years, follows successful trials in the region. Over the past few years Northern Ireland Water has made progress in reducing leakage, but is committed to doing more. In PC21, the Northern Ireland Utility Regulator has set a target of 150 MI/d by March 2027.

The reductions in the level of leakage use satellite-mounted SAR technology to locate water leaking from underground pipes so that repairs can be planned and expedited in a more efficient way. With Recover, entire drinking water systems can be analysed instantaneously. Even leaks that are non-surfacing or have left no surface evidence at all can be located.

Satellite leak detection represents the most significant advance in water leak detection in 80 years, being recognised as such by winning both an American Water Works Association Innovation award and a Japan Water Works award in 2021. Using algorithms that have been fine-tuned to recognise the signatures of water leaking from different systems, Recover locates points of interest, which are provided as GIS (geographic information system) data files; these files are overlaid with the pipe layer from the system owner to create a 'highlighted pipe' image. Compared to traditional leak detection services and methods, satellite-based leak detection technology not only identifies more leaks per day, it increases field crew efficiency by more than 300%.

"NI Water is very much committed to reducing leakage. We will benefit from this step-change in approach as the situation is becoming increasingly more challenging and the influence of abnormal and severe weather is significant," stated Stephen Havern, NI Water Networks Area Manager.

"ASTERRA's innovative satellite leak detection technology can penetrate below the ground surface and will allow the field crews to significantly cut their search time for leaks. This will be a game changer for NI Water," remarked Steve Baker, Managing Director of ASTERRA UK.

Nick Haskins, Business Development Manager at SUEZ, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this contract and very much look forward to working together with Northern Ireland Water. The agreement reflects the needs of our changing world – providing a smart and environmental solution to the challenge of finding leaks."

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About SUEZ:

Faced with growing environmental challenges, for more than 160 years, SUEZ has been acting to deliver essential services that protect and improve the quality of life. SUEZ enables its customers to provide access to water and waste services, with resilient and innovative solutions. With its 44 000 employees present in 40 countries, the Group also enables its customers to create value over the entire lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their ecological transition, together with their end-users. In 2021, SUEZ produced drinking water for 66 million people worldwide and sanitation services for more than 33 million people. The Group generates 3.6 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater per year and avoided the emission of 3.8 million tons of CO2. In 2021, SUEZ generated revenues of 7.5 billion euros. For more information: www.suez.com/ Twitter @suez

About Northern Ireland Water:

Northern Ireland Water is a Government Owned Company (GoCo), set up in April 2007 to provide the water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland. The company supplies 560 million litres of clean water a day for almost 1.8 million people as well as treating 320 million litres of wastewater a day.

About ASTERRA

ASTERRA (formerly Utilis) provides data-driven solutions for water utilities, government agencies, and the greater infrastructure industry. ASTERRA products use synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data from satellites and turns it into large-scale decision support tools. The company's proprietary algorithms and highly educated scientists and engineers are the key to their mission, to deliver actionable intelligence to advance Earth's resource resilience. Since 2016, Utilis technology has resulted in saving more than 9000 million gallons of potable water and 22,000 MWH of energy per year, in support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Utilis ASTERRA division is headquartered in Israel with offices in the United States and United Kingdom. Their innovative data solutions are used in multiple verticals around the globe. They are investing in artificial intelligence (AI) to bring their products to the next level. For more information on ASTERRA and to learn more about their technology, visit <https://asterra.io>.

Find out more about the SUEZ Group
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