Office of Technology & Innovation

Request for Information ("RFI")

Leveraging Ground-Scanning Technology to Build Understanding of Underground Infrastructure in New York City

EPIN #: 85827Y1399

RFI Release Date: September 14, 2026

RFI Last Day for Questions: October 28, 2026

RFI Response Deadline

November 16, 2026

This RFI is released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal, as an RFx. Responses to this RFI/RFx must be submitted via PASSPort. All questions or inquiries regarding this RFI/RFx must be submitted in the PASSPort Discussion Forum.

If you do not have PASSPort account, please submit all questions and responses to 3DURFI@oti.nyc.gov

New York City Office of Technology and Innovation Smart Cities

Office of Technology & Innovation

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Office of Technology & Innovation

I. Invitation & Terms

The New York City Office of Technology & Innovation ("OTI") and Mayor's Office of Operations ("Operations") invite submissions in response to this Request for Information ("RFI") to help determine the feasibility of leveraging emergent technology, particularly ground-scanning technologies, to build a more complete and accurate picture of built underground infrastructure in New York City.

The goal of this RFI is to collect information to support the goals of the 3D Underground program ("3DU"), a cutting-edge program to develop a highly secure, 3D-data-sharing platform for New York City's underground built and natural environment. The platform will help government agencies and utility companies securely share and access information about what lies below New Yorkers' feet, such as water and sewer pipes, gas lines, electrical conduits, fiber optic cables, and soil composition. When completed, 3DU will improve emergency response and preventative threat analysis capabilities for underground infrastructure failures, modernize capital project planning and delivery through better data sharing to reduce costs and schedule overruns, support climate adaptation and stormwater management, and minimize disruption to businesses, residents, and transit. While data sharing between utilities and government agencies will be the focus of 3DU, OTI and Operations are looking to explore additional technologies that can help provide a more complete picture of underground assets, including abandoned assets, vaults, and voids, and improve existing data quality by refining asset location and collecting depth information.

In the event there is sufficient interest in this program, OTI and Operations may, but are not obligated to, issue a subsequent Request for Proposals ("RFP") or other authorized procurement method in accordance with City requirements. Interested parties may voluntarily submit information as part of this RFI for information gathering purposes only; this RFI is not an offer. No contractual relationship will be automatically generated between a responder to this RFI and OTI, Operations, or the City of New York. OTI, Operations, and the City of New York are not responsible for any costs associated with responding to this RFI. Any cost information submitted by responders will be kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of market analysis. This RFI may be modified or cancelled at any time and without prior notice.

II. Interested Parties

OTI and Operations encourage a broad range of responders to submit a response to this RFI. Potential responders to this RFI may include, but are not limited to, entities using ground scanning technology to survey large areas. Collaborative responses from multiple entities are welcome.

OTI and Operations also seek comment on this RFI from:

- Members of the general public,
- Elected officials,
- Community Boards,
- Neighborhood groups,

- City agencies,
- Organizations or individuals with interest and/or expertise in underground infrastructure,
- Organizations or individuals with interest and/or expertise in capital planning,
- Organizations or individuals with interest and/or expertise in emergency response,
- Organizations or individuals with interest and/or expertise in disaster prevention related to underground infrastructure,
- Representatives and/or employees of utility companies,
- Design contractors and consultants that work on underground infrastructure,
- Cybersecurity experts,
- Emergency responders.

III. Current State

Underground assets in New York City are owned by a multitude of organizations, including City agencies, public authorities, and private utility companies. Each organization is responsible for maintaining records on the location and attributes of its own underground assets. Such records were originally kept on paper, but as each organization has embarked on digitization and data improvement efforts on different timelines, data quality varies by organization. As these organizations are primarily focused on operating their network, mapped data may sacrifice locational precision in favor of a network model. Depth information may have never been collected or not well digitized from as-builts. Additionally, as the landscape of underground utilities has changed over time, there are some assets for which no records exist, as some organizations have folded or been consolidated.

Precise underground asset location information is essential for emergency response because establishing an accurate common operating picture is paramount. It is also essential for capital planning and delivery as unforeseen field conditions and other categories of change orders can cause extensive schedule and budget overruns.

IV. Purpose

The focus of this RFI is to explore the possibility of leveraging new technology, particularly ground-scanning technology, to enhance the City's understanding of built underground infrastructure. Such technologies should be capable of building new datasets. Any datasets built or leveraged must be stored securely and for the exclusive use of the City and its partners.

V. Comments Solicited

OTI and Operations welcome all comments but are particularly interested in receiving information and comments to the questions below:

1. How could ground-scanning technology be deployed at scale in New York City?

a. How could such technology be deployed in New York City, given need for data collection across all five boroughs?
    i. How could the technology be deployed on a neighborhood or larger scale?
    ii. How could data be collected on both streets and sidewalks with minimal disruption to residents, businesses, and traffic?

b. Which technology, or combination of technologies, would best suit the geology and infrastructure assets of New York City?
    i. What depth of readings could be expected across different soil types?
    ii. Are there asset types or materials that the technology or technologies cannot read well?
    iii. How would data processing and delivery work?
        1. In what format would data be delivered?
        2. What kind of turnaround time could be expected?
    iv. How could New York City best deploy this data to triangulate asset location with utility records to refine data quality for City and partner datasets?

c. Are there alternatives methods to ground-scanning technology that could non-invasively build out the City's understanding of its underground infrastructure?

VI. Submission Requirements

a. Written responses to this RFI must be submitted in the form and to the email address described on the cover sheet of this RFI. There is no page limit for written responses, but responders are encouraged to be concise in their written responses and to include as much verifiable data and factual material supporting their views as possible.

b. Please include a cover letter with your response. The cover letter should identify:
    - Request Title and EPIN
    - The Entity/Participant Company
    - Corporate Address
    - Tax ID number
    - Point of Contact Name, Telephone Number and Email Address
    - Signature and Date of Authorized Representative of the Participant

c. Please include a clear and concise description of the proposing entity that includes the following:
    - Statement as to whether the entity is a single or multi firm venture
    - Description of the nature of the entity

d. OTI and Operations in their discretion may agree to receive, at their convenience, from any potential responder, an oral presentation in response to this RFI, either in lieu of or in addition to a written response, provided that OTI and Operations reserve the right to decline in any instance the presentation of a response in oral form and instead may require that a party wishing to offer a response do so in written form. OTI and Operations may also, in their discretion, after receipt of any response to this RFI, request additional information from the responder, which may include a request for an oral presentation; responders shall be under no obligation to submit such additional information or provide such additional presentation.

e. Any party who submits a response to this RFI after the submission deadline described herein runs the risk that OTI and Operations may not review such response prior to taking further steps toward implementing a program of the type described in this RFI. Neither failure to submit a response to this RFI nor submission of a late response to this RFI will disqualify any party or entity from participating in any subsequent City solicitation process.

f. Neither Operations nor OTI nor the City generally will be liable for any costs incurred by responders in the preparation of submissions in response to this RFI or for any work performed in connection therewith.

VII. Timetable

a. This RFI was issued on September 14, 2026

b. Inquiries. This RFI is released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal, as an RFx. Responses to this RFI/RFx must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the RFI, vendors should visit the PASSPort Public Portal. To reach the Public Portal, visit the following site: https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page then click on the rectangle captioned "Procurement Navigator," whereupon you will arrive at the Portal. To quickly locate the RFI, insert the following EPIN, 85827Y1399, into the Keyword search field, then click search. In order to respond to the RFI, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so. All inquiries regarding this RFI, as well as submissions, should be made through PASSPort. If you do not have a PASSPort account, you may submit your response and inquiries via email. Please use the subject line "Leveraging Ground-Scanning Technology to Build Understanding of Underground Infrastructure in New York City RFI" and direct your message to the Authorized Agency Email at 3DURFI@oti.nyc.gov.

c. Submission Deadline. Responders are responsible for ensuring OTI and Operations receive one PDF version of their response on or before **November 16, 2026 at 11:45PM**. Responses shall be submitted in PASSPort or emailed to 3DURFI@oti.nyc.gov.

d. Review. All responses will be reviewed by OTI and Operations to determine their responsiveness and to inform possible future RFPs. All such responses will be

considered OTI and Operations property and will not be returned to the submitting party.

e. **Subsequent RFP(s).** OTI and Operations may, but are not obligated to, follow this RFI with an RFP or other authorized procurement method to award a contract to carry out services as described based in part on the information gathered from this RFI. Failure to respond to this RFI will not disqualify prospective entities from participating in any subsequent process; responding to this RFI will neither increase nor decrease any entity's chances of being awarded a contract by the City for relevant services in the future. Information gathered from responses to this RFI may inform the specifics of a forthcoming RFP. Neither OTI nor Operations is required to follow this RFI with an RFP.

VIII. Additional Information

a. **Costs Incurred by Proposers.** OTI, Operations, and the City shall not be liable for any costs incurred by responders in the preparation of submissions or for any work performed in connection there with.

b. **Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program.** OTI and Operations encourage responses from businesses certified under the M/WBE Program, in accordance with applicable law and City policies.

c. **Proprietary Information.** In the event an entity believes that specific information it must submit to respond fully and completely to this RFI is proprietary information that is appropriate and lawful to be treated confidentially by OTI, Operations, and/or the City, it may so advise OTI and Operations in writing. OTI and Operations will attempt to treat as confidential any proprietary information that is identified as such by the submitter consistent with legal requirements. Any information contained in a submission for which the responder seeks such confidential treatment must be clearly designated with the words "Proprietary Information" and must be submitted in a separate file. Submitters should be aware, in any event, that OTI and Operations may be required, pursuant to the New York State Freedom of Information Law (New York Public Officers Law § 87 *et seq*.), to disclose a written submission or portion thereof submitted in connection with this RFI even if labeled as proprietary in accordance with this paragraph. In the event that such disclosure of information labeled proprietary is requested by a third party, OTI and Operations will provide notice to the submitter as far in advance as practicable of any deadline for responding to such request and shall consult with the submitter to evaluate the extent to which such information may be withheld from disclosure under the provisions of FOIL. In the event that OTI and Operations determine that information may not be withheld, OTI and Operations will attempt to provide the submitter with timely notice of its intent to disclose in order that the submitter may invoke any rights or remedies to prevent disclosure to which it believes it may be entitled under the law. The

submitter expressly acknowledges and agrees that neither Operations, OTI nor the City will have any liability to the submitter in the event of disclosure of materials designated by the submitter as "Proprietary Information". OTI and Operations will not accept proposals where the entire proposal is identified as proprietary.

d. **Amendments and Changes.** OTI and Operations reserve the right to amend, extend or cancel this RFI at any time with no costs attributable to the City.

e. **Rights and Privileges.** This RFI is issued for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation for any services or products. A response to this RFI is not an offer of any kind and cannot be accepted in any form to be a binding contract. No party is bound by the information provided in this RFI or by any response to this RFI. Responses are purely voluntary and will be used solely for information gathering.

Non-Competitive; Non-Exclusivity; Other RFIs and Solicitations May Be Issued. Operations' and OTI's goals in pursuing this RFI, as described above, are the continued cultivation of a robustly competitive marketplace for the applicable services and the promotion of low-cost residential and commercial broadband services. Neither the issuance of this RFI, nor the potential issuance of a solicitation or ultimate grant of one or more contracts, after all necessary approvals by the City, will preclude Operations or OTI from issuing in the future one or more further RFIs or solicitations in connection with services of the types described herein or preclude the ultimate grant of one or more possible additional contracts of the type described herein (or, for that matter, any other type of contract) to the extent consistent with law.