

# City of Baltimore Awards \$7.6 Million Contract to Electro Scan Inc. for Lead Water Service Line Inspection Project

*Award-Winning SWORDFISH Pipe Inspection Technology to Assess Buried Water Pipes, Without Digging*

BALTIMORE, MD, USA, June 10, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Electro Scan Inc.](#) announced today that the [City of Baltimore Board of Estimates](#) has approved a \$7.6 million contract for water service line pipe inspection services, including software and technology licensing.



Baltimore Inner Harbor.

The sole source contract was awarded for the period from June 2024 to June 2027.

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The award is in response to the City's ongoing efforts to identify water service line pipe materials, including lead pipes, in accordance with President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

Members of the City of Baltimore Board of Estimates include:

- Nick J. Mosby, City Council President and Chair of the Board of Estimates.
- Brandon M. Scott, Mayor.
- Bill Henry, Comptroller and Secretary to the Board of Estimates.
- James Shea, City Solicitor.
- Jason W. Mitchell, Director of Public Works.

Passed into law in 2021, the EPA requires all 50,000 U.S. water systems to conduct a detail inventory of all utility-owned and privately-owned water service lines to locate and replace lead drinking water pipes.

While the deadline for submitting preliminary results to the EPA is October 16, 2024, water utilities are expected to take many years to accurately locate and validate lead water pipes with a goal of replacing all lead pipes that carry drinking water to households, schools, day care facilities, and businesses.

As stated in the city's award, Electro Scan inspection technology is proprietary and the only commercially available solution for pipe material identification.

Known as electrical resistance testing, Electro Scan's patented [SWORDFISH](#) device measures changes in conductivity as its probe moves through the inside of a pipe; not requiring to dig or excavate a customer's property, sidewalk, or street.

Electro Scan's machine-intelligent technology was first developed to identify pipe defects missed by closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and acoustic sensors.

Winner of the 2023 Best Cleantech Award at Sensors Converge, held in Santa Clara, California, Electro Scan recently opened a state-of-the-art Customer Engagement Center to



Electro Scan's award-winning SWORDFISH enters at the curbside and navigates through the water service line, automatically determining pipe material(s) as it travels.



Selected neighborhoods in Baltimore, from left to right, including Greektown, row houses near Penn Station, Little Italy, Mediam Park, and Patterson Park.

### Comparison of Housing Built By Decade Baltimore MD, Washington DC, and Philadelphia PA



Baltimore, MD		1954	
Total Number of Housing Units	272,839	100%	
Built in 1939 or Earlier	113,626	42%	
Built between 1940 and 1949	32,547	12%	
Built between 1950 and 1959	44,821	16%	
Built between 1960 and 1969	24,058	9%	
Built between 1970 and 1979	15,618	6%	
Built between 1980 and 1989	11,962	4%	
Built between 1990 and 1999	10,697	4%	
Built between 2000 and 2009	10,106	4%	
Built between 2010 and 2019	9,286	3%	
Built in 2020 or Later	118	0.04%	



Washington, DC		1955	
Total Number of Housing Units	344,306	100%	
Built in 1939 or Earlier	113,235	33%	
Built between 1940 and 1949	37,350	11%	
Built between 1950 and 1959	41,643	12%	
Built between 1960 and 1969	38,349	11%	
Built between 1970 and 1979	23,368	7%	
Built between 1980 and 1989	16,104	5%	
Built between 1990 and 1999	10,832	3%	
Built between 2000 and 2009	27,352	8%	
Built between 2010 and 2019	35,399	10%	
Built in 2020 or Later	674	0.2%	



Philadelphia, PA		1948	
Total Number of Housing Units	720,688	100%	
Built in 1939 or Earlier	293,652	41%	
Built between 1940 and 1949	80,477	11%	
Built between 1950 and 1959	113,385	16%	
Built between 1960 and 1969	80,327	11%	
Built between 1970 and 1979	53,115	7%	
Built between 1980 and 1989	28,583	4%	
Built between 1990 and 1999	23,062	3%	
Built between 2000 and 2009	21,548	3%	
Built between 2010 and 2019	25,847	4%	
Built in 2020 or Later	692	0.10%	

Source: [point2homes.com](#), June 2024

While lead water fixtures were banned in 1986, Baltimore has the highest percent of homes built before 1939, compared to Washington DC and Philadelphia PA.



support online customer bookings at a growing number of water systems wishing to create accurate inventories of water service connections.

While lead water pipes and fixtures were banned in 1986, Baltimore has 113,626 homes built before 1939 or 42% of total housing units, compared to Washington, DC with 113,235 homes built before 1939 and Philadelphia with 293,652 homes built before 1939.

During the question and answer portion of the City's Board of Estimates meeting, Richard J. Luna, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works, City of Baltimore, reported that the City of Baltimore has approximately 177,000 unknown water service lines requiring inspection.

During the meeting, Paul Sayan, P.E. Acting Water/Wastewater Bureau Chief, stated that the decision to adopt Electro Scan was in keeping with using new technology to improve decision making and that results would expand on an already successful citizen self-survey program that has resulted in 4,200 homeowner reports.

Electro Scan's \$7.6 million contract includes goals for minority business participation and local hiring.

Today's announcement coincides with the opening session of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Annual Conference & Expo #ACE2024 in Anaheim, California, June 10-13, where Electro Scan is exhibiting with its SWORDFISH services partner, M.E. Simpson & Co., Inc., Booth #1701.

#### ABOUT ELECTRO SCAN INC.

Founded in 2011, Electro Scan Inc. is headquartered in Sacramento, California, USA, and is a leading international supplier of machine-intelligent pipeline assessment and quality assurance products and services for the water, sewer, and oil & gas markets. The company designs, develops, and markets proprietary equipment and delivers technical field services using its SaaS-based cloud application that automatically locates, measures, and reports leaks and water service line pipe materials, including lead pipes. The company's products and professional services detect buried lead water services on a house-by-house basis; typically not found or



The USEPA requires all 50,000 drinking water system providers to inventory both utility owned services, typically from water main to meter, and private property owned water services and private services.

confirmed by legacy inspection methods.

Janine Mullinix  
Electro Scan Inc.  
+1 916-779-0660

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