



2018 INTELLIGENT WATER SYSTEMS CHALLENGE

FAQs

The Challenge

What is the overall goal of this Challenge?

Our goal is to demonstrate the value of using advanced sensing and/or data technology to deliver cost-effective operations and sustainable watershed management for utilities while allowing students, professionals and technology enthusiasts the opportunity to showcase their talents and innovations.

What is the Challenge approach?

The Challenge is about building a complete team to address utility needs through better decision-making, and also about shared learning and (we hope) having fun together.

Need Statements

What are Need Statements?

Need Statements are descriptions of a need identified by a utility that may be addressed through leveraging of the utility's Intelligent Water System components. The need may be for a solution to an existing problem or for exploration and investigation of novel and innovative ideas.

Who can submit Need Statements?

Statements may only be submitted by utilities (or by industrial facilities).

Are utilities limited to submitting one Need statement?

Utilities may submit more than one statement.

Are there different types of Need Statements?

Statements may be **shared** or **reserved**:

- **Shared** Need statements, consisting of the description of the opportunity or problem and relevant data, are made available for any Challenge team to solve. Utilities submitting shared statements are asked to make reasonable arrangements for addressing questions from teams, but utility availability for these questions is not guaranteed.
- **Reserved** Need statements are formulated by a utility intending to work on the opportunity or problem directly on a partnered team (see below).

Teams

What is a Team?

A Team consists of no more than six individual members who will work together to address a Need Statement.

Who can be on a Team?

There is no constraint on organizational affiliations of the team members and full flexibility in team membership. We envision some teams with multiple (or even all) members from the same utility, perhaps taking advantage of the Challenge to build better inter-departmental ties.

Steering Committee members and judges may not be part of a team.

Can an individual participate on more than one Team?

An individual can be on multiple teams.

What happens if I'm interested in participating, but don't have a Team?

The Steering Committee will assist in connecting individuals to form teams.

Are there different types of Teams?

There are two types of teams: regular and partnered.

- **Regular** teams will work to address a **shared** Need statement submitted by a utility. More than one team may work on a given shared problem.
- **Partnered** teams will work to address a **reserved** Need statement, and will include one or more members from the utility submitting the reserved problem.

The Steering Committee may encourage regular teams to consider particular Need statements. Also, utilities are not constrained to work only on their own problems, and can choose to work on other utilities' shared Need statements.

Can teams add members?

Teams may freely add members up to the challenge plan submission deadline. Between the challenge plan submission deadline and the time of the first check-in, the team must request permission to add members by transmitting a written request to the Steering Committee that includes an explanation of the reasons for the request; the Steering Committee will approve or deny the request within one week. Priority should be given to those who already registered but not matched to any team yet.

How can a utility or team keep its intellectual property confidential?

The IWSC is not responsible for protecting Teams' intellectual property rights. If confidential aspects of a proprietary technology or software are presented as part of a Team's solution, it is the Team's responsibility to indicate this in their submittal and to request appropriate non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) from Steering Committee members and judges. Similarly, if a utility does not wish its data to be shared beyond the IWSC Teams working with that data, the utility is responsible for requesting similar agreements from Team members. A model NDA form is available from the Steering Committee.

Solutions

What can I do if I have a great solution already in place?

Problems with previously completed solutions are not eligible for prize consideration, but may be submitted for recognition as advancing the concept of Intelligent Water Systems.

Recognition may include opportunities to showcase the completed solution during the planned IWS Challenge educational activities, and acknowledgement at the IWSC forum at WEFTEC 2018.

What should I do if I have a neat Need and am already working towards a solution?

Opportunities and problems with solutions already begun are eligible for prize consideration, but the submittal must clearly describe previously accomplished work, including existing IWS components.

Can proprietary technology be used in a solution?

Proprietary technology (i.e. custom analytics tools, as contrasted with open-source software) can be used in a solution. The Challenge criteria are intended to give judges flexibility in evaluating the value of a solution; for example, a portable and scalable solution implemented with proprietary tools may provide an alternative contribution worthy of consideration.

The Steering Committee is responsible for all determinations of eligibility with respect to Need statements, teams, and solutions.