

# BUILDING INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION



The Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT) is an initiative undertaken by The Water Research Foundation (WRF) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) to bring new water technologies to the field quickly and efficiently. Entities active in advancing innovation in their region\* can become LIFT Affiliates. Affiliates work together to share information and collaborate on projects of mutual interest and benefit, such as piloting and evaluating new technologies.

*\*For example, WEF Member Associations, water hubs and clusters, state-sections, associations, and NGOs*

## LIFT AFFILIATE OPPORTUNITIES



### COLLABORATE WITH PEERS

LIFT Link is an online collaboration platform that fosters interaction among utilities, academics, consultants, investors, and technology providers. Here, Affiliates can discover the latest technologies, connect with others who have similar interests, and collaborate on projects and demonstrations. Affiliates can also learn about high-priority research and technology needs, find experts to help meet these needs, and more.



### IDENTIFY NEW TECHNOLOGIES

LIFT Technology Scans offer technology providers a platform to introduce new technologies to facility owners, consultants, venture capitalists, regulators, and others to accelerate advancement and early adoption. Affiliates can help identify promising technologies from their own networks to participate in the LIFT Technology Scan process.



### FIND OR BECOME A TEST FACILITY

Affiliates can work with local utilities and universities to integrate facilities from their region into an international test bed network, FAST (Facilities Accelerating Science and Technology) Water Network. It connects innovators in the water industry with appropriate test facilities.



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Water  
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Water Environment  
Federation  
the water quality people®

[www.werf.org/LIFTaffiliates](http://www.werf.org/LIFTaffiliates)

“ I hoped that through the LIFT SEE IT scholarship I could speak to the operators of [a] system without the pressure or input from salesmen or design engineers—and that is exactly the experience I had. The operators were very courteous and showed me their entire plant, explaining operating, design, and purchasing options to explore when considering this equipment for my facility. ”

KENT PEETZ  
DIRECTOR OF WASTEWATER UTILITIES  
JACKSON WASTEWATER UTILITY



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Fidan Karimova at [fkarimova@waterrf.org](mailto:fkarimova@waterrf.org).



## CONNECT WITH UNIVERSITIES

The University-Utility Partnership program allows Affiliates to leverage LIFT's network and ongoing activities to strengthen academic and utility connections. This provides greater opportunities for educational outreach and utility-relevant research.



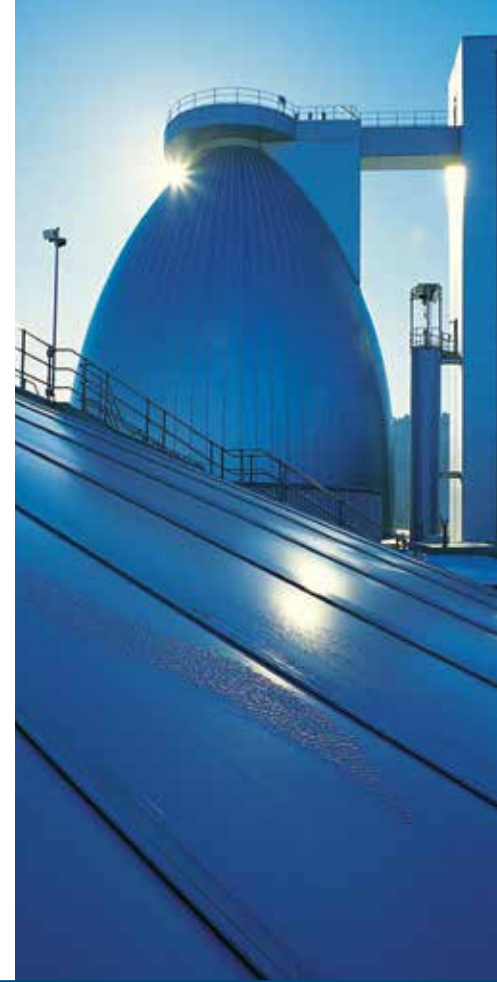
## VISIT TECHNOLOGIES

The Scholarship Exchange Experience for Innovation & Technology (SEE IT) awards \$30K annually in scholarships for utility personnel to see innovative technologies in use. SEE IT is sponsored by WRF, WEF, and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



## CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO INNOVATE

LIFT Challenges give students, professionals, and technology aficionados the opportunity to showcase their talents and awards their efforts with cash prizes. The first challenge was launched in 2018 and tasked entrants to tackle utility problems using intelligent water systems.



## LIFT AFFILIATE BENEFITS

(\$2,500 ANNUAL FEE)

- Recognition on LIFT Affiliate web page through logo and website link
- Opportunity to contribute new ideas
- Use of LIFT Technology Scans to promote local/regional technologies
- Inclusion of test bed locations in the FAST Water Network Directory
- Fifteen unique logins to LIFT Link
- Invitation to LIFT Affiliate meeting at WEFTEC
- Access to LIFT Technology Scan webinars
- Participation in an international network on innovation
- Ability to exchange technology test data with other Affiliates
- Dedicated space in LIFT Notes email newsletter (as requested)
- Invitation to the WEFTEC WRF luncheon (one)
- Quarterly calls with the LIFT team to get updates (as requested)
- Opportunity to participate in the LIFT Challenges
- Assistance with innovation-related needs