



Request for Proposals (RFP)

50 in 5 Measurement Indices & DIRT Data Analysis

BACKGROUND

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) seeks to engage one or more professional services contractors to assist in the analysis of data relating to excavation-related damages to underground facilities.

Established in 2000, CGA is dedicated to preventing damage to underground utility infrastructure and protecting those who live and work near these important assets through the shared responsibility of our stakeholders. CGA is a member-driven association of 3,200 damage prevention professionals spanning every facet of the underground utility industry.

The CGA has developed a Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) – a secure web application for the collection and reporting of underground damage information. The DIRT system allows users to submit damage-event reports (as well as near-miss-event reports) and is open to all stakeholders in the United States and Canada. The system is designed to be unbiased, anonymous and confidential. CGA's Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee (DR&EC) oversees development of the DIRT tool, produces the annual CGA DIRT Report and manages the statistical evaluation of data collected.

CGA's annual DIRT Report is the only comprehensive national accounting of excavation damages, making it a key resource for the media and the entire damage prevention industry – including local, state and federal regulators and policymakers – as we try to reduce the number of damages to buried infrastructure and improve public safety.

Past examples of our annual DIRT Reports can be found [here](#), or furnished by CGA upon request.

OBJECTIVE

CGA has issued a challenge to industry stakeholders [to reduce damages to critical underground utilities by 50% in 5 years \("50-in-5"\)](#). The objective of this project is to develop one or more indices to measure progress in achieving this goal and to provide statistical consultation and analysis of data collected yearly pertaining to damages, near miss events and 811 Center statistics such incoming and outgoing excavation notices. These indices should be designed to convey the extent and overall direction of excavation damage over time, and be understandable to the general public, media, government officials, policymakers, etc. Prior experience in damage prevention or adjacent industries (ex: utilities, regulatory, construction) would also be helpful.



SCOPE OF WORK

Index Development:

- Propose one or more indices of damage prevention performance in the United States to track progress beginning with 2023 data. This could include, but not be limited to, organizing a set of representative companies that have and will continue to consistently report damage information to DIRT to serve as indicators of damage prevention performance over time.
 - Use [DIRT](#) as a primary data source.
 - Other sources can be used to supplement and validate the approach, possibly including but not limited to:
 - [811 Center data](#) on incoming locate requests and outgoing transmissions to member facility operators.
 - U.S. DOT PHMSA data from regulated natural gas operators:
 - [Pipeline Data Mart](#) - relevant reports are listed under "State-specific Damage Prevention Information" section in the PHMSA Pipeline Data Mart (PMD) link
 - [Distribution, Transmission & Gathering, LNG, and Liquid Accident and Incident Data](#)
 - [Gas Distribution, Gas Gathering, Gas Transmission, Hazardous Liquids, Liquefied Natural Gas \(LNG\), and Underground Natural Gas Storage \(UNGS\) Annual Report Data](#)
 - [U.S. Census data](#) on housing starts, construction spending, etc.
 - [U.S. OSHA data](#) on workplace injuries.
- Propose ways to address limitations in the data, including but not limited to:
 - Industries other than natural gas do not have outside data sources equivalent to PHMSA.
 - DIRT reporting is voluntary. Some states have regulations requiring reporting, but compliance should not be assumed to be 100%, and reporting may only be required for specific industries (ex: natural gas).
 - It is known that DIRT is not capturing ALL damages that occur in the U.S., reporting companies can fluctuate year-to-year, and some industries are better represented in the data than others.
 - In some instances, multiple stakeholders enter reports on the same damage event, but CGA has methods to identify and account for these.
 - New companies are continually initiating DIRT reporting, and occasionally companies drop out or skip one or more years due to personnel turnover, mergers, acquisitions, etc.
- Propose methodology to address/account for distribution of DIRT reporting companies by factors such as:
 - Type of utility service provided (natural gas, telecommunications, electric, water, etc.).
 - Type of business service provided such as locating, excavating and 811 Centers.
 - Size of company (measurement options include miles of underground lines, customers served, etc.).
 - Geography (ability to extrapolate to entire U.S.).



Data Analysis Consulting:

Serve as an ongoing resource for CGA to assist in annual data analysis, estimating the total number of annual damages in the U.S., identifying correlations and trends and providing supplemental analysis on an as-needed basis.

DELIVERABLES

- Data model(s) showing inputs and outputs of indices.
- Written report describing the recommended indices, criteria for representative companies and/or data sets included as well as the pros and cons of proposed approaches.
- Annual and supplemental analysis to include a description of the analysis and methodology.
- Data visualization to depict indices and additional analysis.

SCHEDULE

The following is a general schedule intended to give a sense of CGA expectations. The schedule is subject to modifications. It is anticipated that the successful bidder will have interaction, via video conferencing (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.), throughout the process with CGA staff and membership who will provide input, oversight and guidance.

Draft schedule – Subject to Modifications:

- October 9 through 25: Schedule and complete discovery calls (30 minutes) upon request.
- By Monday, October 25: Confirm intent to formally respond to RFP.
- Week of October 30th: CGA schedules calls with interested parties to exchange detailed information and answer additional questions.
- By November 10: Deadline for RFP submissions.
- By November 17: Schedule additional calls with final candidates for RFP review and discussion.
- By November 22: Communicate selection.

RFP Submission Information:

Formal submissions should include the following:

- A statement of capabilities relative to the objective, scope of work and deliverables.
- A description of any relevant prior experience. A portfolio or sample of related project(s) a plus.
- An outline of the intended approach to the Scope of Work.
- An outline of pricing options for Index Development and Data Analysis Consulting with proposed billing method in the form of one of the following: hourly rate, flat rate, deliverable rate or combination structure.
- Three (3) client referrals. Association-specific referrals a plus.

Questions, responses confirming interest and intent to formally respond must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. ET on October 18, 2023 to RFP@commongroundalliance.com.