
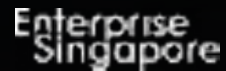


IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA

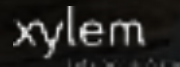
 **ADB** ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

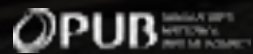
# Meet Four **Imagine H2O Asia** Startups Addressing Water Challenges in Southeast Asia

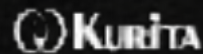
Supported By

 Enterprise Singapore

 suez

 xylem

 PUB

 Kurita

 WORLD BANK GROUP

TODAY'S SESSION

---

# What is Imagine H2O Asia?

---

Meet our innovators

4 startups

5 min pitches

Q&A

---





## WHO ARE WE?

**Imagine H2O** is a global NGO that helps early-stage, high-impact water technology startups launch, grow and scale

**Imagine H2O Asia** is our new ASEAN hub in Singapore

# Our Funding & Program Partners



## FOUNDING PARTNERS



## PROGRAM PARTNERS



## WTAP PARTNER

*(Pilot support initiative launched in April 2021)*



## ASIA IMPACT PARTNER (2020)



## PROGRAM SPONSOR (2019)



THE CHALLENGE

Asia's **businesses & utilities** face common barriers to **innovation** access and adoption





INTRODUCTION

# Why does **innovation** access remain **underserved**?



## INFORMATIONAL

Lack of awareness of and/or ability to vet potential solutions



## FINANCIAL

Budget constraints and lengthy approval processes



## RISK AVERSION

Widespread perception of risk vs incumbent technologies



## PARTNERSHIPS

Limited resources and channels available

# Building Transformative Solutions to the Region's Water and Wastewater Challenges

HOSTED AT



## ACCELERATION

Mentorship  
& industry visibility

## CONNECTIVITY

Intros to tech adopters  
(municipal & industrial)

## MARKET VALIDATION

Pilot co-funding & in-country  
market advisory

## SINCE 2009...

**150+**

startups

**\$1M**

pilot funding  
awards (since  
2018)

**\$600M+**

raised by  
startups

## IN THE PAST 2 YEARS...

**100%** increase in Asia-Pacific-based startup applicants Y-o-Y

**SUEZ, Xylem, Kurita, ADB Ventures** joined as supporters

**25** startups from 10 countries in alumni network

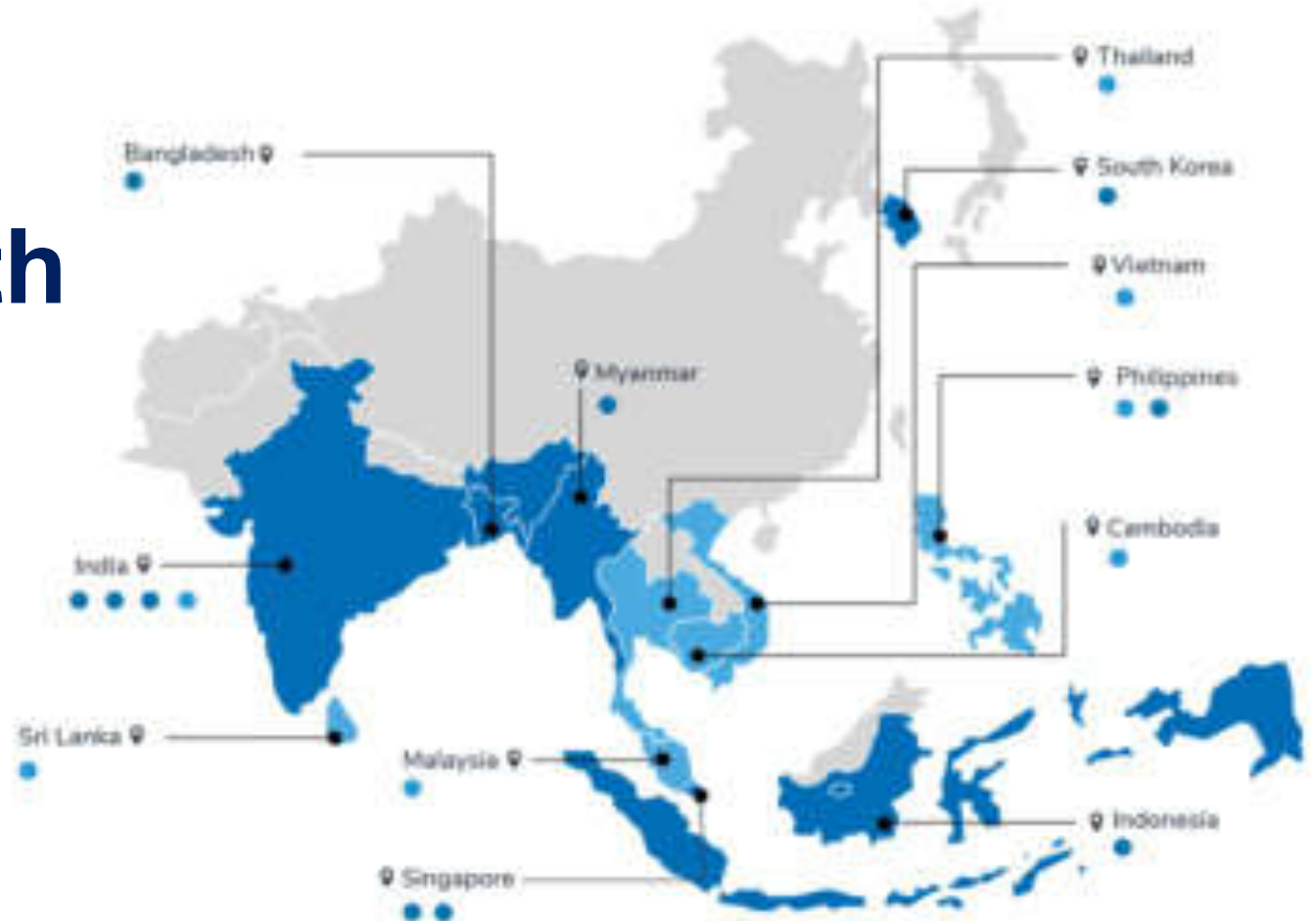
**1,500+** attendees at virtual program events (2020)





# Unlocking Market Access Across South & Southeast Asia

Imagine H2O Asia Portfolio Traction (2019-21)



- Active Deployments
- Active Customer Discussions with IH2O Asia Partners

# The Ecosystem Partners Network



## SELECT ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS



## OTHER GLOBAL CUSTOMER PARTNERS



A group of people, including several women wearing hijabs and a man in a blue polo shirt, are gathered outdoors near a lake. The man in the blue shirt is gesturing with his hands as if speaking to the group. In the background, there is a body of water, a wooden dock, and some people walking. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

IMAGINE H<sub>2</sub>O ASIA

# Meet a few of our **innovators**

---

ADB 2<sup>ND</sup> E-MARKETPLACE



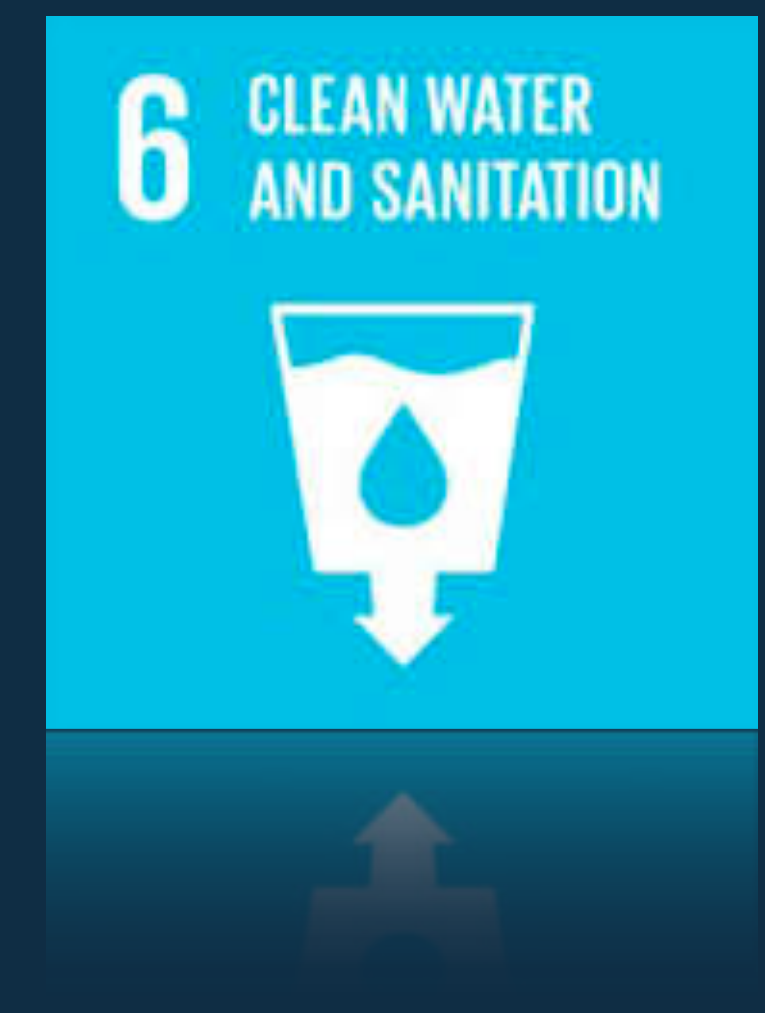
IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA

How can sewer network surveillance help cities optimize wastewater infrastructure performance?





*Building a unique wastewater surveillance ecosystem*





# SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS (SSO)

Have a huge environmental impact

**50 BLD**

Billion Liters a Day of SSO  
In India

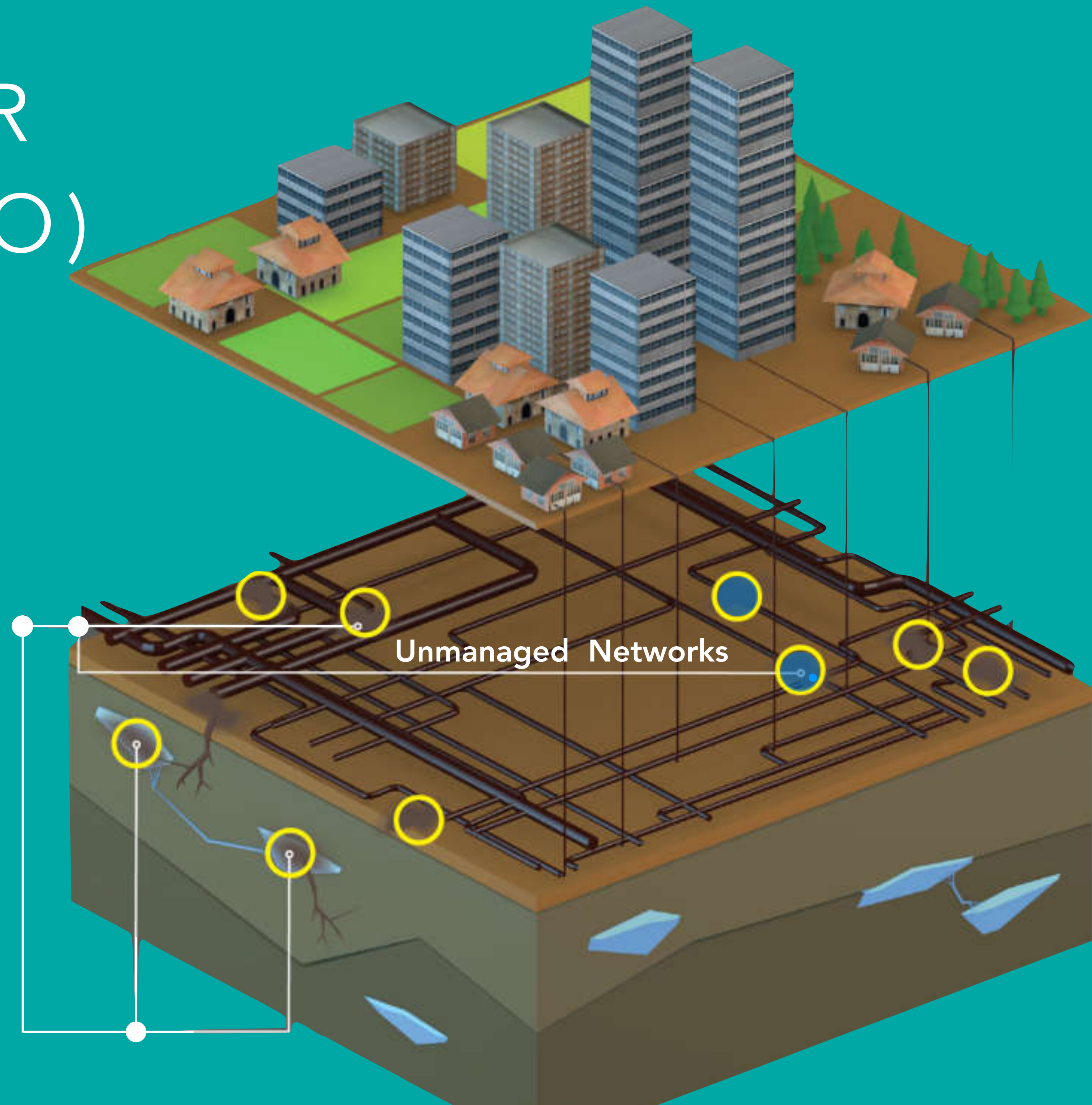
**9 BLD**

Billion Liters a Day of SSO  
In US

Cause of SSOs

## Wastewater Monitoring

20+ years old (US, EU, Singapore)  
Non-existent (SA, SEA)







 fluid|health™

WASTEWATER MONITORING SENSORS & DEVICES

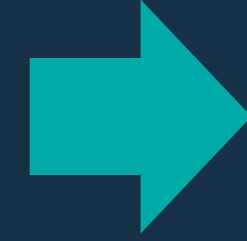
 fluid|ai™

AI-BASED DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM



# 1 Billion Liters of Urban Pollution

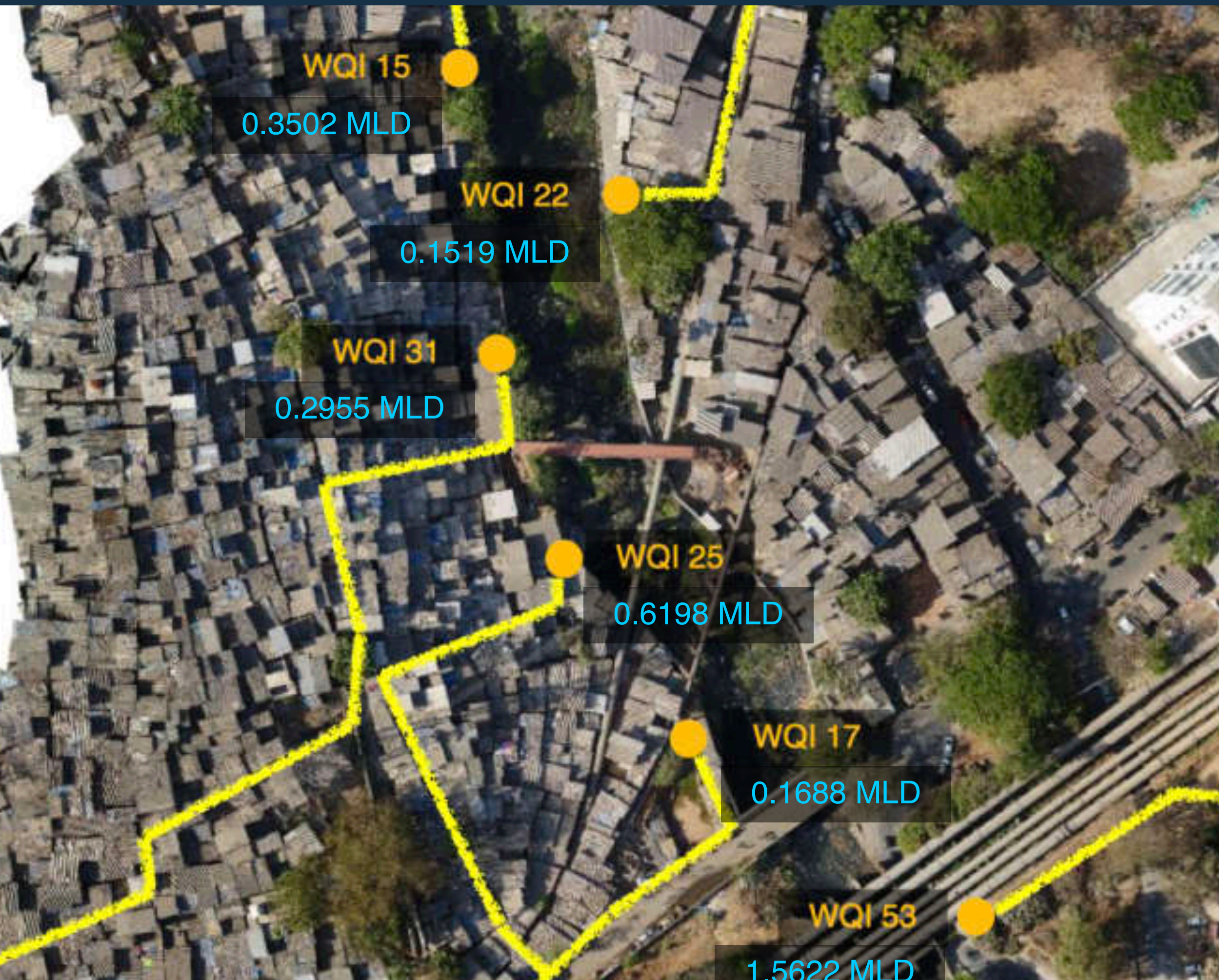
Quantify urban water pollution



Wastewater pipeline network optimisation



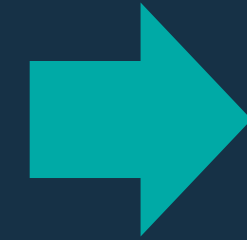
Sustainable reduction of untreated wastewater entering waterways





# 8.5M Population for Covid-19

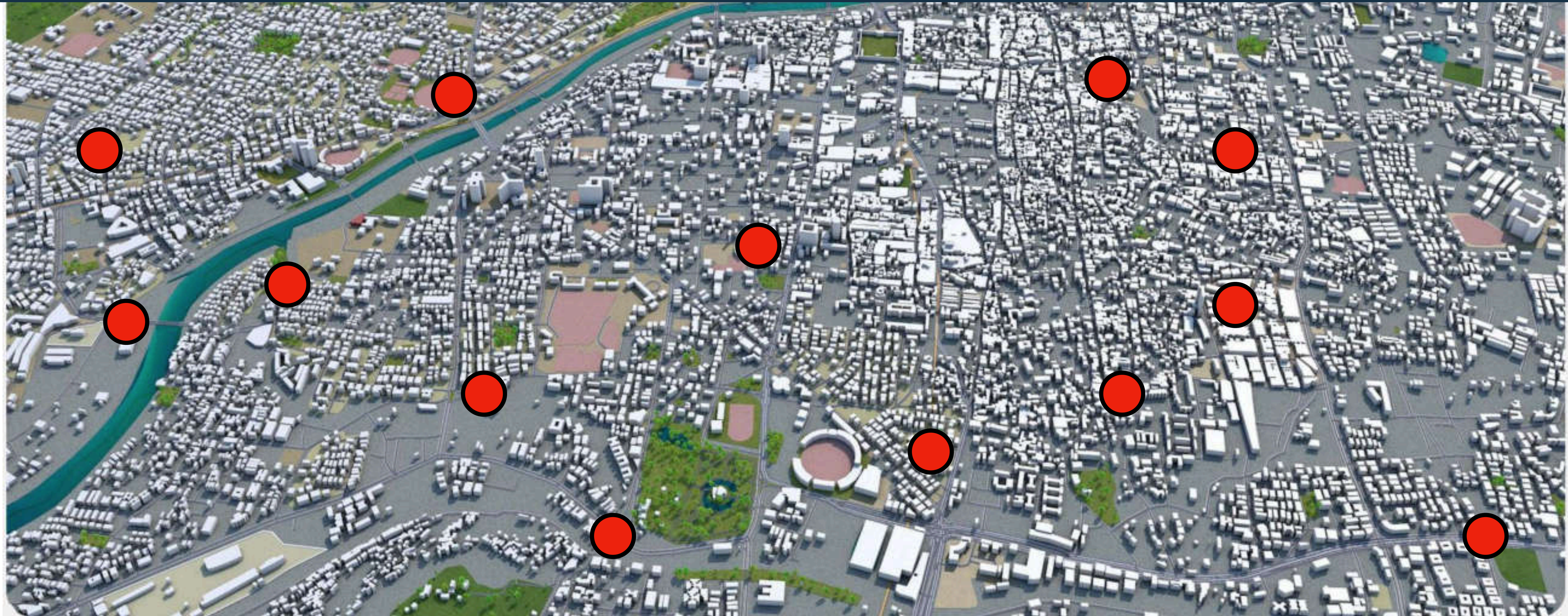
Automated Sampling of Wastewater



Covid-19 Detection (RNA Extraction/ Measurement)



Genomic Sequencing for Variants of Interest/ Concern





# 4

Countries

# 1B+

Litres of Urban Pollution  
Monitored

# 1.5M+

Feet of Sewer Inspections  
FY 2021-22

# 8M+

Population being  
monitored for Covid-19





---

## *Global Wastewater Infrastructure Assessment and Analysis*



IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA

How can we better detect toxic heavy metals to identify illegally discharged wastewater?

*EnvironSens*



*EnvironSens*

# I2BioS (Intelligent Integrated Bio-Sensor)

**Shailesh Kharkwal, PhD**

Co-founder & CEO

---

Real-time Toxicity Monitoring || 100 + Installations in Singapore || Proven Track Record

---

# Utilities across South & Southeast Asia are facing new pressures to monitor illegal/accidental discharge at the source

## The Challenge

80% of wastewater enters waterways untreated

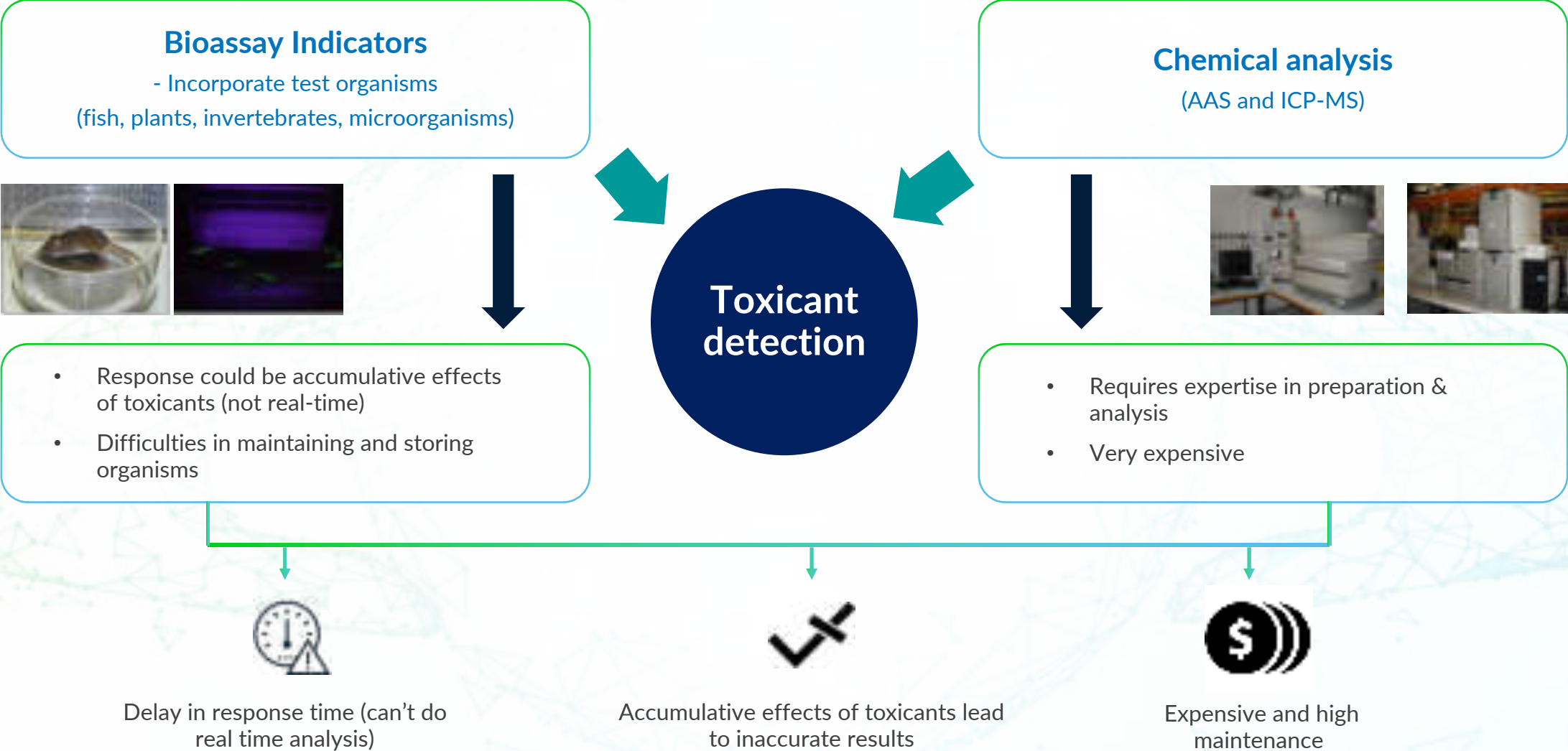
Tougher effluent discharge regulations

New fine/permit regimes

Lack of low-cost early warning system

There is a need for solutions that can quickly identify **WHERE**, **WHEN** and **WHO** is discharging so that WRP operators can respond rapidly and strengthen enforcement capabilities

# Current detection methods for heavy metals face limitations





# Our Solution: I2BioS (Intelligent Integrated Bio Sensor)

An online and continuous monitoring system of heavy metal toxicity in water bodies and sewer network



**EASY**  
OPERATION

Standalone I2BioS provides end-to-end solution to customer



**ACCURATE**  
DETECTION

Embedded algorithm for accurate detection of toxic chemicals from 1-500 ppm

(i.e., copper, cadmium, chromium, nickel, zinc, lead, arsenic, cyanide, etc)

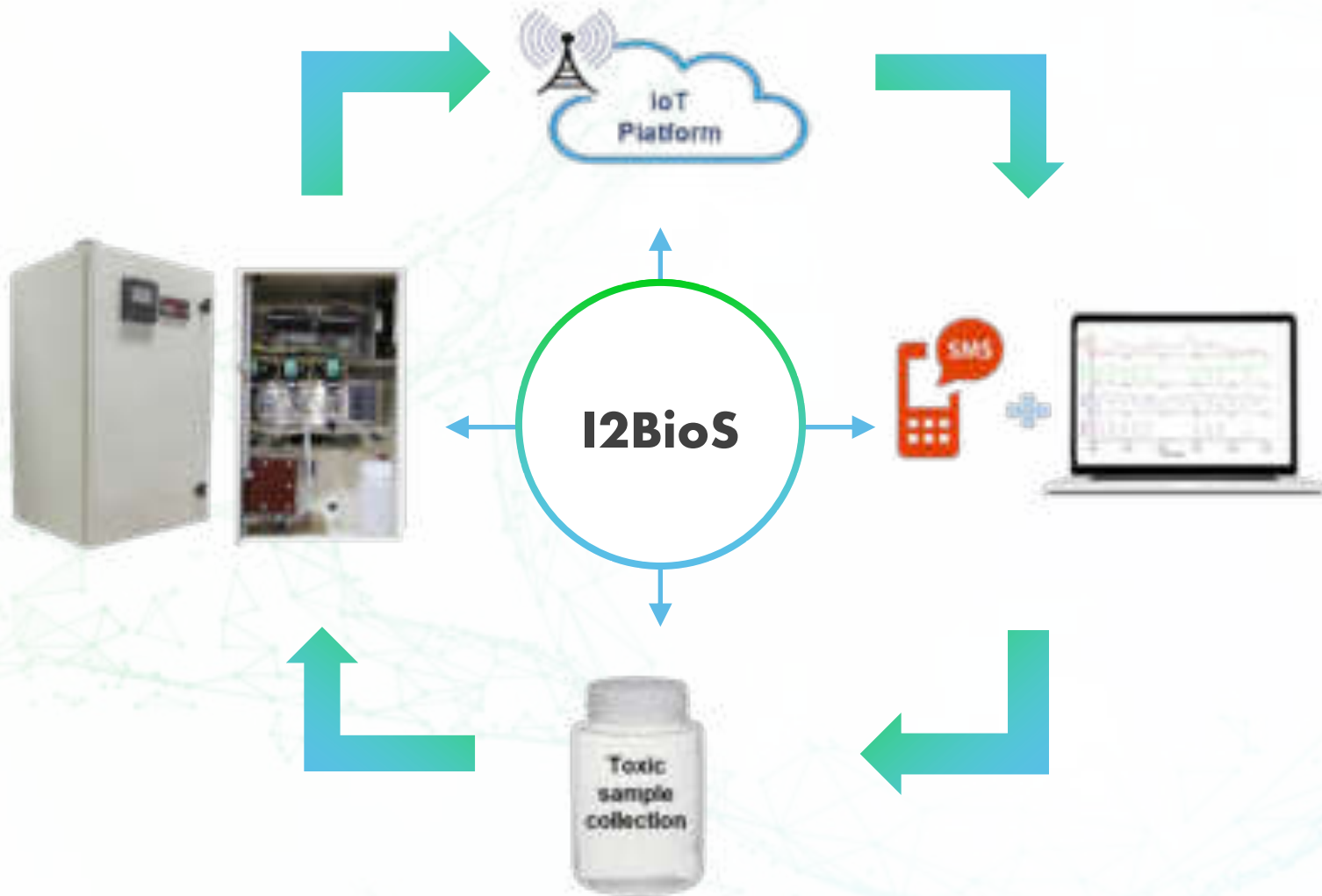


**FAST**  
RESPONSE

Online continuous monitoring system with 24/7 AI-enabled dashboard



# How I2BioS works



Bio-electrochemical technology

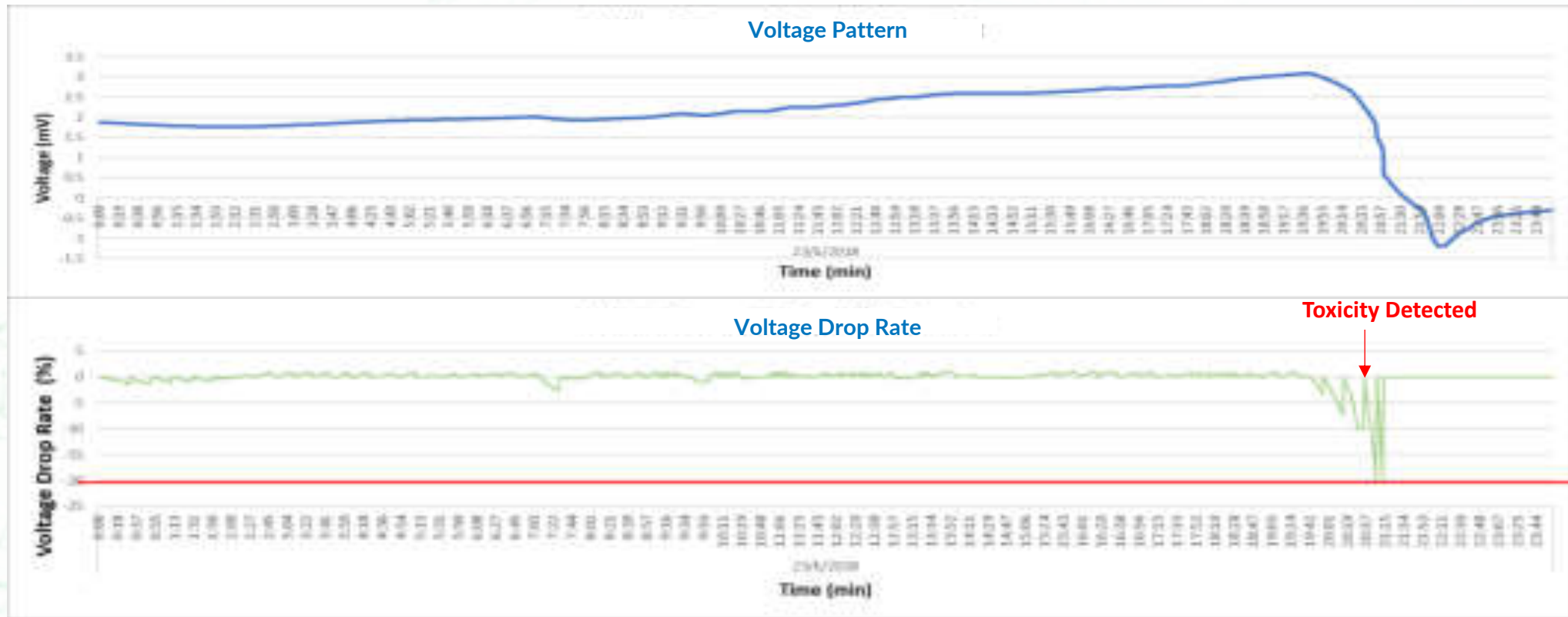


Voltage monitored as output signal for the growth of biofilm inside I2BioS



Presence of toxicity is observed based on the voltage drop determined by embedded algorithm of I2BioS

# Case Study: Toxic events detected by I2BioS at different trade effluent locations



- I2BioS installed at last discharge point of a trade effluent site (electroplating company) detected heavy metal toxicity and autosampler was triggered
- Captured sample was measured to have **10.5 ppm of Cu (II)** and **9 ppm of CN**



# A low-cost solution for faster and more accurate detection

Feature	I2BioS	Chemical Analysis (ICP-MS, AAS)	Other Methods
Concept	Microbial-Electrochemistry	Spectrometric Measurement	Bioassay Indicators (Fish, Plants, Invertebrates, Micro-organisms)
Continuous monitoring	✓	✗	✗
Measurement time/Sample Preparation	5 - 20 min / sample preparation is not required	90 - 120 min / Sample preparation is required	30 - 90 min / Sample preparation is required
Required Maintenance Level	Low	High	High
Cost	Low	High	Low
Pre-warning System	Yes	No	No
AI-enabled IoT Platform with Dashboard	Yes	No	No

# A Journey from Lab to Market - Development of I2BioS in Different Phases



Lab-scale I2BioS developed at  
Centre for Water Research, National  
University of Singapore (2011)



Field trial of pilot-scale I2BioS at a  
pumping station in  
Singapore (2013)



Compact I2BioS at the final  
discharge point of a factory located  
in Singapore (2016)



Standalone commercial I2BioS  
installed in a factory located in  
Singapore (R) (2018)



# Proven track record in Singapore & awards

- ✓ 100+ installations to date
- ✓ 75+ additional installations by Q4 2021
- ✓ 50+ incidents reported
- ✓ Filed patents in Singapore, China, India, UK and USA
- ✓ Ongoing pilot projects in **China** and **India**
- ✓ Ongoing discussions in Southeast Asia – **Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia**, etc.



# Ask

## A Common Problem Statement

- Utilities across South and Southeast Asia face similar sewer discharge challenges
- Potential customers have also shared an interest in monitoring surface water bodies

## Seeking ADB's Support



### *Primary Target*

Early discussions for demonstration with utility in Philippines



### *Secondary Targets*

Ongoing pilot discussions in India

# The Team



**Prof. How Yong Ng**

Co-founder and Director, EnvironSens

Professor at NUS & Director at NUS  
Environmental Research Institute

*EnvironSens*



**Dr. Shailesh Kharkwal**

Co-founder and CEO, EnvironSens

10+ years of experience in water sector  
PhD from NUS

*EnvironSens*



## Contact:

E: [shailesh@environsens.com](mailto:shailesh@environsens.com) M: +65 8432 6713 W: [www.environsens.com](http://www.environsens.com)



IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA

How can wastewater treatment plant operators optimize system health to save costs and prevent toxicity events?

sentry 

IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA

How can utilities effectively monitor  
and maintain remote infrastructure  
assets?



*A ClimateTech Company*

---

Enabling Sustainability  
by **reimagining operations of remote and distributed assets**

ADB's e-Marketplace  
Oct 2021

**Leela Krishna Sriramula**  
Chief Business Officer & Co-Founder







## Problem

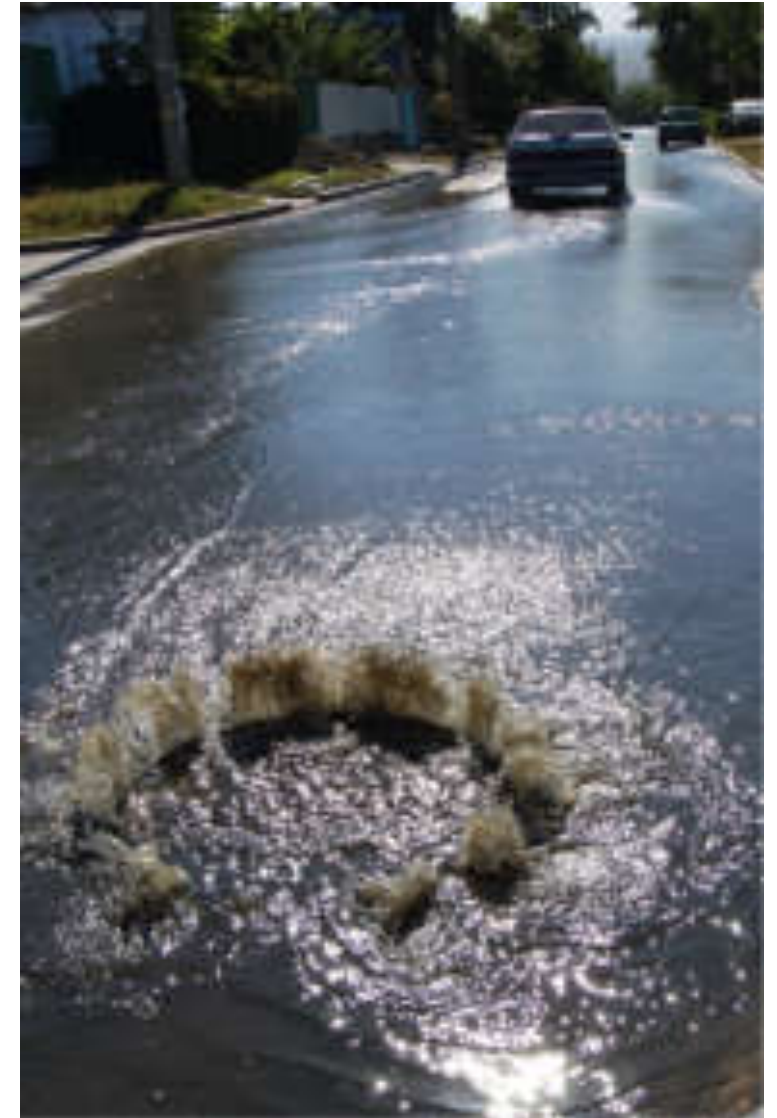
# Rapid growth and Climate Change causing tremendous stress on water infrastructure

- Lots of Distributed Assets, **insufficient real-time data**
- Increasing Demand, **stress on current systems**
- Silo-ed Solutions, **need for Unified Data Platform**

**Urgent need of digitalization in urban water  
for data driven management**



**Image (on the right):** Sewer networks in cities are under tremendous stress and can lead to sewage overflowing into streets. Real time sewer data and prediction of such overflows could be a gamechanger.





- **Unified Asset Data Platform :**
  - ❖ **Single Source of Truth**
- **Cloud-Based SaaS :**
  - ❖ **Secure, Scalable, Convenient**
- **No-Code Interface :**
  - ❖ **Easy to Deploy, Use & Maintain**

## remoteEye

Full stack solution to connect any asset to IoT over low power wireless networks



Monitoring & Control of remote M&E assets

## SewerEye

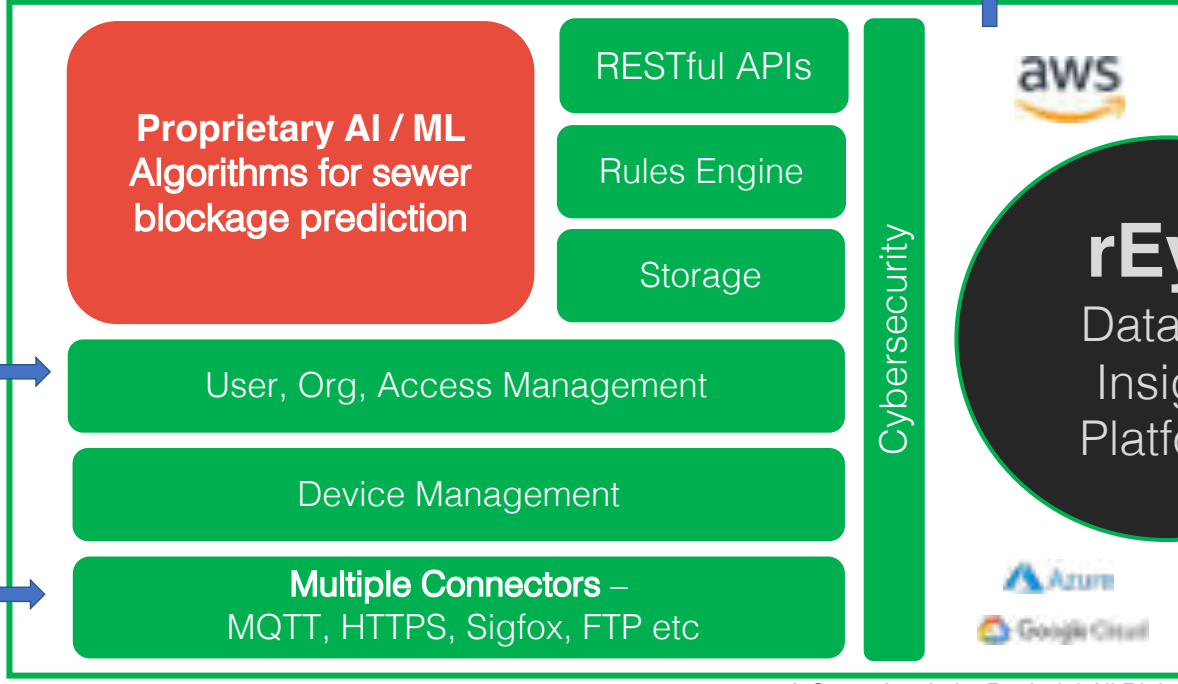
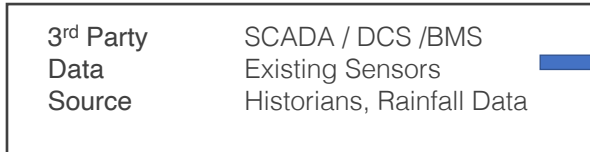
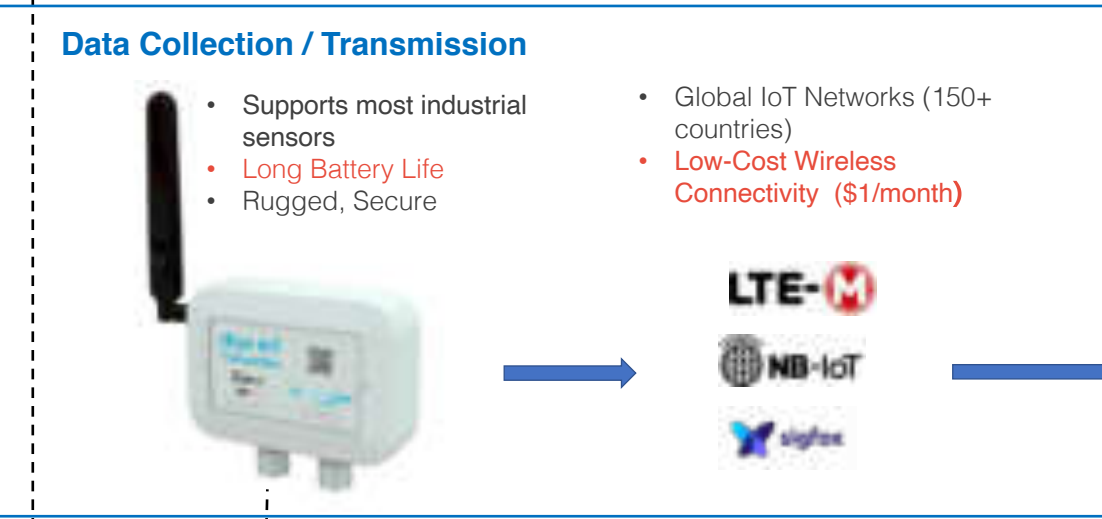
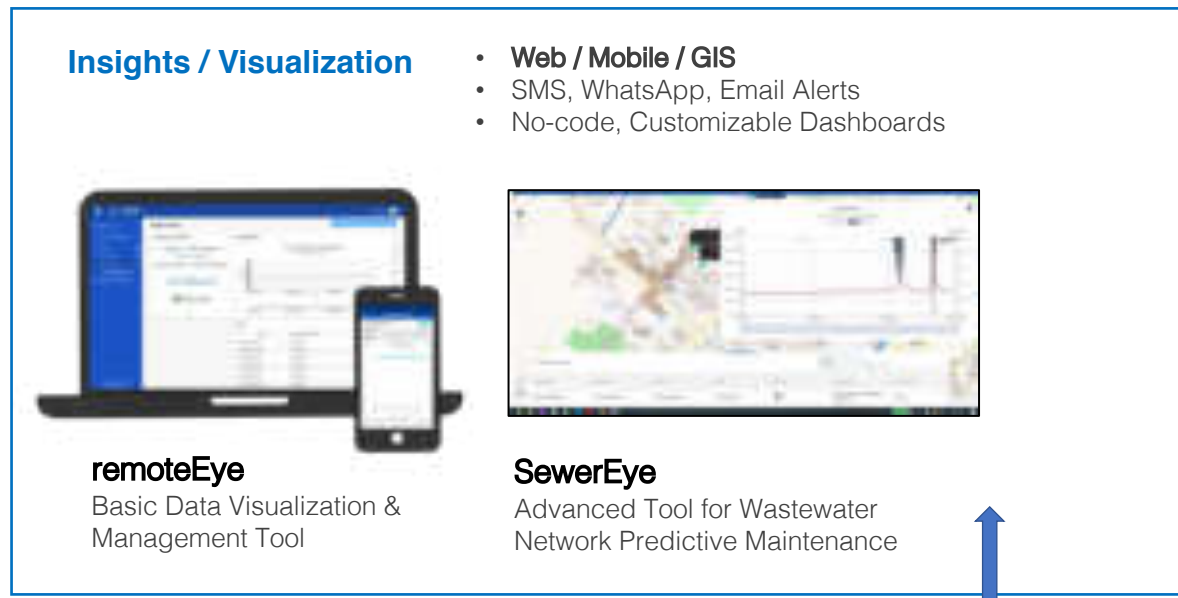
Low Power IoT Devices + AI/ML Software for holistic predictive maintenance of wastewater networks



Sewers, Drains, Grease Traps, Tankers, Pumps



- Sewers / Drains / Pipes
- Decentralized Skids
- Tankers
- Remote Pumps
- Rivers, Lakes, Reservoirs







# Case Studies

- **remoteEye** – Improving efficiency by preventing water wastage and detecting leakages
- **SewerEye** – Improving Operations and Compliance by Predicting sewer blockages and detecting illegal discharge



### Use Case:

- Real-time consumption data
- Improve water utilization efficiency by reducing wastage
- Leak Detection

- **Up to 30% reduction in water Consumption**
- **Helped Customer with real-time monitoring and Improved Efficiency**
- **Auto-generation of weekly and monthly reports for regulatory and audit requirement**





## Early leak detection in underground pump pits



- **Identified 7 incidents in 6 months**
- **minimised water wastage due to leakage / flooding**
- **improved operations efficiency and reduced downtime**





**3500 km** of sewers

**90,000** manholes

**Overflow due to blockage** leads to

**Monetary loss** (\$25k per overflow) , **EHS** issues and **public nuisance**.

Current solution is **reactive**, difficult to maintain and expensive.

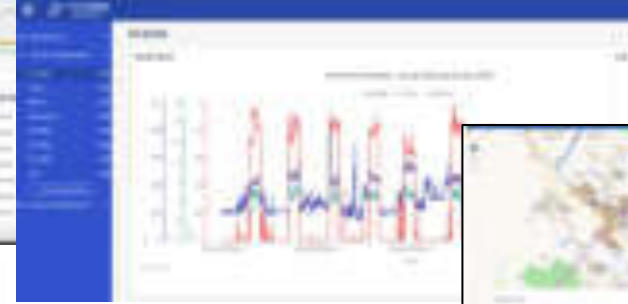
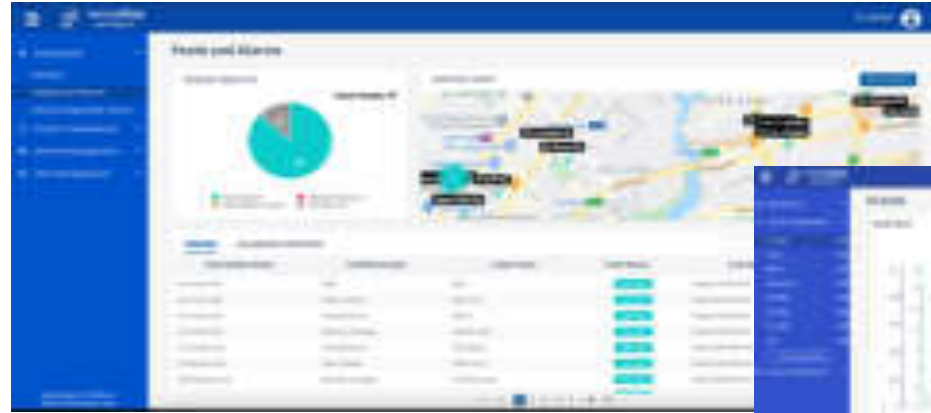
Ideal Solution: **predictive**, low maintenance and easy to deploy.



## Detected 7 Blockage events in the last 6 months



LTE-M

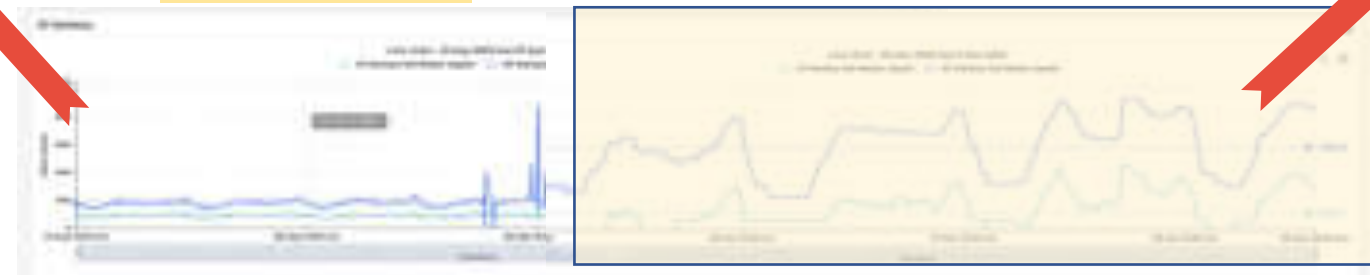


rEye IoT Device inside the Manhole Chamber

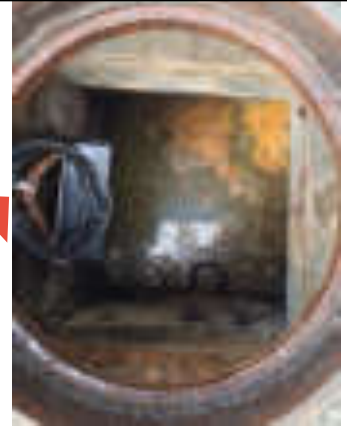
- 2-3X Battery life compared to other solutions
- Variable sampling rate based on actual conditions

Normal Sewer level

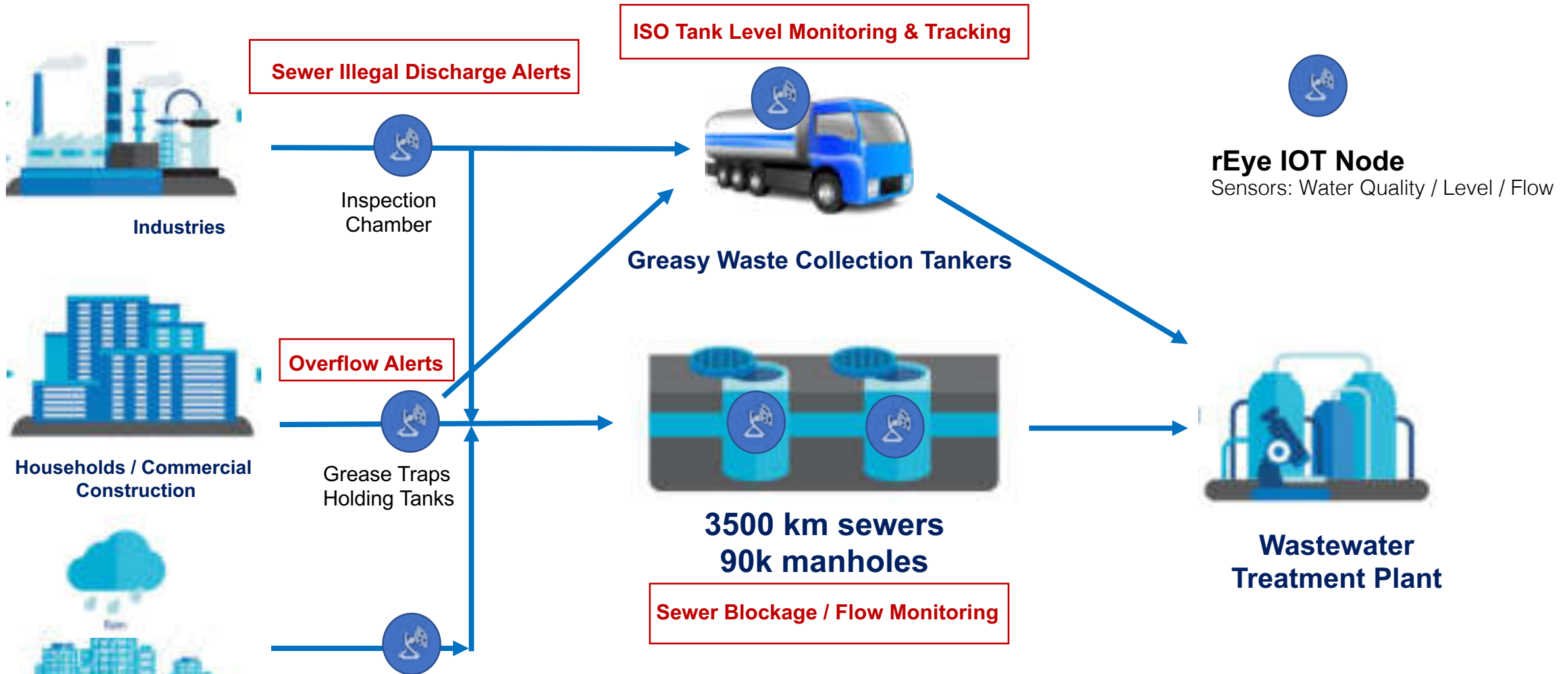
Surcharged level due to blockage



Sewer Level Trend at 67 Kerbau Rd showing the increase of base flow level over time



# One platform for managing the wastewater collection network







# SewerEye (Installation Photos)



WQ / Illegal Discharge Detection at Factories



Level / Flow Monitoring at Sewer Manholes



ISO Tanker Level Monitoring & Tracking



- **265 unique rEye Sensor Nodes** installed along the Sewer Network / manholes and ICs at factories and construction Sites in Singapore
- **7 Sewer Blockage Events** predicted
- **25+ Illegal discharge events** detected
- Substantial savings (~\$25k per blockage) through prevention of pollution and sewer overflow events
- Predictive or condition based Maintenance instead of scheduled or break down maintenance



**30+ Customers**

Logos included: PUB, DHI, PEPSICO, CHANGI, Schneider Electric, Fische, JTC, Sembcorp, EnvironSens, Hitachi, EVOQUA, and others.

750+ rEye IOT devices installed

1000+ Assets monitored

Monitoring 200+ Km of Sewer Pipes

Monitoring 80+ Sewer Manholes

Monitoring 185+ water skids

7 Sewer Blockage / overflow events predicted (~\$175k direct savings)

25+ Illegal discharge events detected

Up to 30% reduction in water usage



# Recipe for Success – Partnerships



## COLLABORATING TO DETECT CONTAMINATION IN REAL TIME

Participated in Imagine H2O Asia enabled Environment@H2O Asia '19 and SpaceAge Labs @H2O Asia '19 to identify opportunities for joint deployments in Singapore. This collaboration has now led to 300 deployed installations providing wireless connectivity and remote access for real-time, on-site detection.

**I AM A CUSTOMER**

PUB works closely with the water industry to invest and grow innovative water technologies to better serve Singapore and the world. We have partnered with Imagine H2O Asia through the Singapore Water Exchange to nurture exciting water start-ups including testing its solutions at PUB's installation and operations. Start-ups like **SpaceAge Labs** and EnvironSens have benefited from the good work of Imagine H2O. We look forward to deepening the collaboration with Imagine H2O in 2021 to push the frontiers of water innovation.

**Michael Toh**  
 Director, Industry & Technology Collaboration Department  
 PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency | Singapore







# Thank you!

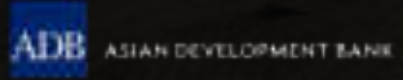


[leelakrishna@spaceagelabs.com.sg](mailto:leelakrishna@spaceagelabs.com.sg)



[www.spaceage-labs.com](http://www.spaceage-labs.com)

IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA



# Q&A





IMAGINE  H<sub>2</sub>O // ASIA

# Thank you

If you would like to learn more about the startups featured today or connect with Imagine H2O Asia, please contact us directly.

---

[annamarie@imagineh2o.org](mailto:annamarie@imagineh2o.org)

