

Backscatter Computed Tomography to Enhance Culvert Rehabilitation



Increase Confidence and Expected Service Life for Rehab Projects

- It is possible to conduct a rehab that achieves the same results as a new installation.
 - Proper understanding of the problem
 - Allows a precise solution to be engineered
 - Meeting performance specs of a new installation and exceeding performance specs of the original installation



Voids Leading to Structural Instability

- The soil envelop is load bearing
- Soil instability will compromise the entire structure
- Voids create stress risers in the pipe
- Ultimately leads to deformations in the roadway and potential failure





Current Inspection Methods

- Visual Inspection can Identify
 - Corrosion, Joint failure and misalignment, deformation, ovality, channel misalignment and scour
 - Difficult to make consistent and repeatable and ultimately it is impossible to assess structural integrity based on visual results alone
- Acoustic (Knock) Test can identify
 - Regions suspected of undermining or voiding
 - Good screening tool, however it is subject to false positive void results and is difficult to report in a systematic fashion
- Neither provide conclusive information about structural integrity or soil stability





Information Gap

- Unseen cues of structural deficiency represent an information gap
 - Undermining
 - Soil movement
 - Piping
 - Void formation
- Visual and Acoustic
 - Are not definitive but are useful as a screening tool
- Backscatter Computed Tomography (BCT) is used to fill the information gap
 - Identify, visualize and quantify voids
 - Post construction QA/QC (grout placement)







Tomographic Image





2

Scanner houses radiation collimator and detector Scanner placed adjacent to asset of interest



Data collected for a single plane through the asset



That data represents a density map of the asset





- To scale representation of the culvert including:
 - visual indicators
 - acoustic anomalies
 - BCT locations
- BCT provides conclusive structural diagnostics of the soil envelope
- All data in the culvert map is referenced in complete culvert report



Engineer a Solution

• Every site is unique

- Local soil conditions
- Construction practices (time of install)
- Burial depth (soil load requirements)
- Traffic load (risk of failure)













Current Rehabilitation

- Based on currently available information assumptions are made from inconclusive inspection data about
 - failure mode
 - soil stability
 - grout placement



Robust Solution

- With new technology
 - failure modes, soil stability and grout placement can be accurately visualized and understood
 - Allowing you to engineer a precise solution
 - Meeting performance specs of a new installation and exceeding performance specs of the original installation



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Stephen McCormick Technical Sales and Business Development Inversa Systems Ltd. 1+506.455.8845 (w) 1+506.261.1380 (c) 1+506.455.6799 (f) InversaSystems.com Stephen.McCormick@inversasystems.com



Cast Iron Water Pipe with Corrosion







Composite Wrap Repaired Pressure Pipe

A BCT image of weld root corrosion on a out of service pipe sent to Inversa by client for qualification.







HDPE with Concrete and Void



Figure R&D BCT image and graph of 2 layer HDPE pipe with concrete and simulated air gap





Figure R&D physical setup two 21mm thick layers of HDPE filled with concrete