In the Spotlight:

Imperfection Detection: Detect Me If You Can

This multi-phase competition launched on March 4, 2021 and seeks innovative concepts/methods/technologies to inspect and assess the condition of infrastructure for water storage and water delivery made from fiber reinforced composite materials. Composite materials are emerging as an attractive alternative to steel and are seeing increased use. Field tools are needed to ensure that the failures unique to these materials can be detected before they occur. Unique to this competition is the creative approach to hands-on testing of solver-developed solutions by subject matter experts. These experts will provide technical input and feedback to solvers as their prototypes are developed and include the opportunity for demonstration and receiving data/test results. Learn more about the competition from a May 2021 webinar on YouTube (non-governmental website). Phase 1 submissions are due on June 24, 2021.
**Automated Maintenance of Protection Systems (AMPS)**
Automating protection systems testing and eliminating the outages to accomplish testing can improve hydropower plant reliability. Phase I of this competition requires solvers to deliver a white paper describing their technical approach to the automating protection systems testing. Phase 1 submissions are due September 3, 2021.

**Water America’s Crops Challenge**
Seeking advancements in cost-effective methods to minimize seepage from and reduce potential for canal failures over the long term. View the May 2021 webinar on YouTube (non-governmental website) to learn more. Phase 1 submissions are due June 24, 2021.

**Canal Safety Challenge**
Canals look inviting for cooling off, but they are difficult to climb out of and the water can be cold, swift and deadly. Phase 1 solvers submitted innovative ideas to improve safety at or in canals. Phase 1 finalists will be announced in June 2021 and develop prototypes for lab testing at a Reclamation facility in the fall of 2021.

**Streamflow Forecast Rodeo**
Streamflow forecast rodeo is midway through the year of real-time forecasting. Despite significant portions of the west experiencing drought conditions, spring creates opportunities for solvers to forecast snowmelt runoff across much of the west. Skillful streamflow forecasts are important as operators balance filling reservoirs and providing flood control.

**More Water, Less Concentrate**
Phase 1 solvers submitted white papers describing solutions for reducing the volume of concentrate requiring disposal from inland desalination systems. Up to 5 Phase 1 winners will receive prizes and be invited to continue in the competition to build a functioning prototype for demonstration at Reclamation’s Yuma Desalting Plant. Phase 1 winners are planned for announcement in July 2021.

Prize Competitions Recap

May 2021
Click [here](#) to learn more about all of Reclamation’s Prize Competitions

Interest in partnerships, potential topics, or questions can be emailed to [prize@usbr.gov](mailto:prize@usbr.gov).

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**About Reclamation**

Established in 1902, Reclamation is best known for the dams, powerplants, and canals it constructed in the 17 western states. The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Reclamation is leveraging prize competitions to help solve some of the most critical water resource problems in the areas of Water, Infrastructure, and Environment.