Echologics Opens Innovation Site to Advance Smart Water Technology for Water Main Leak Detection and Pipeline Condition Assessment

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ATLANTA, Sept. 18, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Echologics has opened a new innovation site dedicated to testing "smart" solutions for leak detection and pipe condition assessment, representing a significant commitment to addressing the growing challenge of aging water main infrastructure.

The research and development center, which is located in Walkerton, Ontario, Canada, will allow Echologics' engineers to test new solutions, showcase capabilities for visiting water utilities and other customers, and provide operators with hands-on training experiences.

An affiliate of Mueller Co., Echologics is a leading developer and provider of smart water technologies, including acoustic-based technologies for leak detection, pipe condition assessment and water loss management, which allow water utilities to intelligently manage their assets.

"This R&D center will help us rapidly advance new technologies and demonstrate solutions that give our customers access to the data they need to make educated and cost-effective decisions about their water networks, including asset management plans and infrastructure replacement investments," said Marc Bracken, vice president and general manager of Echologics.

"Ontario congratulates Echologics for establishing a research and training facility in Walkerton, Ontario," said Reza Moridi, Ontario's Minister of Research and Innovation. "Ontario's water sector continues to be a priority for the province, and by establishing this site, Echologics demonstrates that it shares our commitment to protecting the water supply for generations."

"Ontario is a world leader in water technology innovation and expertise. Our ideas, people, and solutions have changed the way the world manages its water," said Dr. Peter Gallant, CEO, Water Technology Acceleration Project (WaterTAP). "With the launch of this site, Echologics is contributing to Ontario's tradition of excellence and advancing smart solutions for cities that are facing massive water and wastewater infrastructure challenges."

The site features real life applications for water infrastructure technology, including more than 2,000 feet of plastic and metallic water mains with diameters ranging from 6-inches to 16-inches. It also includes a pump house that creates and maintains pressure conditions commonly found in municipal and industrial facilities and settings. Water network connections at the site are provided by Mueller and include fire hydrants, resilient wedge gate valves, automatic flushing systems and service connection.

The site will also serve as a training and certification facility for engineers and field staff from Echologics and other Mueller Water Products' affiliates, as well as business partners and utilities. The site is designed to enable field teams and operators to gain considerable experience with field assets, leak detection scenarios and pipeline condition assessment technologies under controlled conditions.

About Echologics

Echologics, an affiliate of Mueller Co., is a developer of water infrastructure diagnostic technologies for water loss management, leak detection and pipe condition assessment. Echologics is dedicated to helping water utilities reduce water loss with subsequent benefits in monetary, environmental and health costs to their communities. For more information, visit www.echologics.com.

About Mueller Water Products

Mueller Water Products, Inc. (NYSE:MWA) is a leading manufacturer and marketer of products and services used in the transmission, distribution and measurement of water in North America. Our broad product and service portfolio includes engineered valves, fire hydrants, metering products and systems, leak detection and pipe condition assessment. We help municipalities increase operational efficiencies, improve customer service and prioritize capital spending, demonstrating why Mueller Water Products is Where Intelligence Meets Infrastructure®. The piping component systems produced by Anvil help build connections that last in commercial, industrial, mechanical, fire protection and oil & gas applications. Visit us at www.muellerwaterproducts.com.

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