

June 30, 2021

Sakai City
Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.
Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West Corporation

Sakai City, Osaka Gas, and NTT West to Jointly Conduct a Trial of Online Acceptance of Applications for Exploration for Buried Objects and Consultation about Construction

Sakai City (Mayor: Hideki Nagafuji), Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and President: Masataka Fujiwara, "Osaka Gas"), and the Osaka Branch of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West Corporation (Osaka Branch Manager: Nariko Ogawa, "NTT West") will jointly start a trial of online acceptance of applications for exploration for buried objects and consultation about construction in July 2021.

1. Background

Many pieces of infrastructure equipment are installed under roads, including water pipes, gas pipes, and communication tubes. To avoid any damage to such buried objects, contractors who excavate a road need to apply to each infrastructure business operator for exploration for buried objects and consultation about construction. In the present system, contractors visit the contact point of each infrastructure business operator to deliver an application form and explain the construction plan in person. However, there is a call for digital transformation (DX) from the viewpoints of the spread of contact-free work during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, reduction in the contractors' labor, and improvement in the operational efficiency of each infrastructure business operator.

2. Trial overview

Sakai City, Osaka Gas, and NTT West will jointly accept applications for exploration for buried objects and consultation about construction by using an online acceptance system provided by NTT West (the "System"), and these three entities will verify the benefit of the online acceptance system.

The System will enable the contractors to apply to the three entities in one go without visiting them. Moreover, the contractors will receive a reply over the System to know whether or not their construction will be affected by buried objects. The System is expected to reduce person-to-person contact and labor involved in the application process. Furthermore, from the System, the three entities will be able to obtain information about what construction is planned where, which is expected to streamline their labor involved in application acceptance.

3. Each entity's role in this project

Sakai City	- Online acceptance of consultation related to water supply and sewer pipes
Osaka Gas	- Online acceptance of gas-pipe-related applications for exploration for buried objects and gas-pipe-related consultation about construction
NTT West	- Online acceptance of communication-tube-related applications for exploration for buried objects and communication-tube-related consultation about construction - Provision of an online acceptance system

4. Trial period (scheduled)

July 5, 2021 to September 30, 2021

5. Future plans

Based on the verification results of this trial, Sakai City, Osaka Gas, and NTT West will promote DX that contributes to the spread of contact-free work during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, reduction in the contractors' labor, and improvement in the operational efficiency of each infrastructure business operator.

Also, the three entities will continue to collaborate in many ways with ICT toward the establishment of safe and secure social infrastructure.