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SmartCow: an integrated infrastructure for increased research capability and innovation in the European cattle sector



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1. Author(s)

Organisation name lead contractor	Teagasc
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Author	Organisation	e-mail
Emer Kennedy	Teagasc	Emer.kennedy@teagasc.ie
Michael O'Donovan	Teagasc	Michael.odonovan@teagasc.ie
Clare Guy	Teagasc	Clare.guy@teagasc.ie
Katie Sugrue	Teagasc	Katie.Sugrue@teagasc.ie

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background	<p>Within Europe there are many research institutes which have common equipment and related techniques (e.g. automatic feeders to record intake, devices to measure CH₄ emissions...). It would be beneficial if there was a database available which catalogued this information and was freely available for numerous reasons (e.g. if one institute had operational issues with a piece of equipment another institute which had the same piece of equipment could be contacted and the issue resolved).</p> <p>To ensure the feasibility of this approach research institutes within the SmartCow consortium will initially be contacted and information collected. Once the data collection process is streamlined and dissemination methods agreed and created (D1.2) other EU research institutes and eventually research institutes outside of the EU can also be included.</p> <p>Collection of this data will provide an insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each piece of equipment/technique which will be invaluable for young researchers and those wishing to incorporate such techniques into experimental protocols.</p>
Objectives	<p>The objective of task 1.3 was to catalogue available equipment and related techniques which are in use across the consortium</p>
Methods	<p>A contact person from each research institute within the consortium was identified at the kick off meeting and their email address obtained.</p> <p>An exhaustive list of the equipment associated with different measurement techniques was developed and an excel spread sheet created to collect the data.</p> <p>Before sending to all project partners the file was sent to a smaller group of people involved in the project to review and identify any areas which were missing or where more information was required. Once this sub-committee was satisfied with database, it was sent to the people within the consortium whose email addresses were collected at the kick off meeting.</p>

	<p>Once all information was returned it was collated into one document, validated and sent to partners working on Tasks 1.1 and 3.1 to allow them to further their respective work packages.</p>
Results & implications	<p>All partners within the consortium agreement filled out the database and returned it. As a result SmartCow now has a comprehensive catalogue of all the available equipment and related techniques within each of the consortium research institute.</p> <p>This information can now be developed into an interactive map (D1.2) which will be available for everyone with access to the SmartCow website to view.</p> <p>The information was also sent to those involved in WP 3.1 and will help attain their deliverable (D3.3) of producing a book of experimental methods in Ruminant Physiology which will be available to the public.</p> <p>Into the future the database created can also be sent to research institutes outside of the SmartCow consortium to garner further information regarding available equipment and related techniques within their research institutes.</p>



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1 Background

Within Europe there are many research institutes which have common equipment and related techniques (e.g. automatic feeders to record intake, devices to measure CH₄ emissions...). It would be beneficial if there was a database available which catalogued this information and was freely available for numerous reasons (e.g. if one institute had operational issues with a piece of equipment another institute which had the same piece of equipment could be contacted and the issue resolved).

To ensure the feasibility of this approach research institutes within the SmartCow consortium will initially be contacted and information collected. Once the data collection process is streamlined and dissemination methods agreed and created (D1.2) other EU research institutes and eventually research institutes outside of the EU can also be included.

Collection of this data will provide an insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each piece of equipment/technique which will be invaluable for young researchers and those wishing to incorporate such techniques into experimental protocols.

2 Objective

The objective of task 1.3 was to catalogue available equipment and related techniques which are in use across the consortium.

3 Methodology

To enable accurate and time efficient collection of the required data a contact person from each research institute within the consortium was identified at the kick off meeting and their email address obtained. The database was designed and sent to each of these people with a deadline by which it had to be filled in and returned.

3.1 Database construction

An exhaustive list of the equipment associated with different measurement techniques was developed and an excel spread sheet created to collect the data. The different headings under which extensive information was required were as per deliverable 1.3.

Before sending to all project partners the file was sent to a smaller group of people involved in the project to review and identify any areas which were missing or where more information was required. Once this sub-committee were satisfied with database it was sent to the people within the consortium whose email address were collected at the kick off meeting.

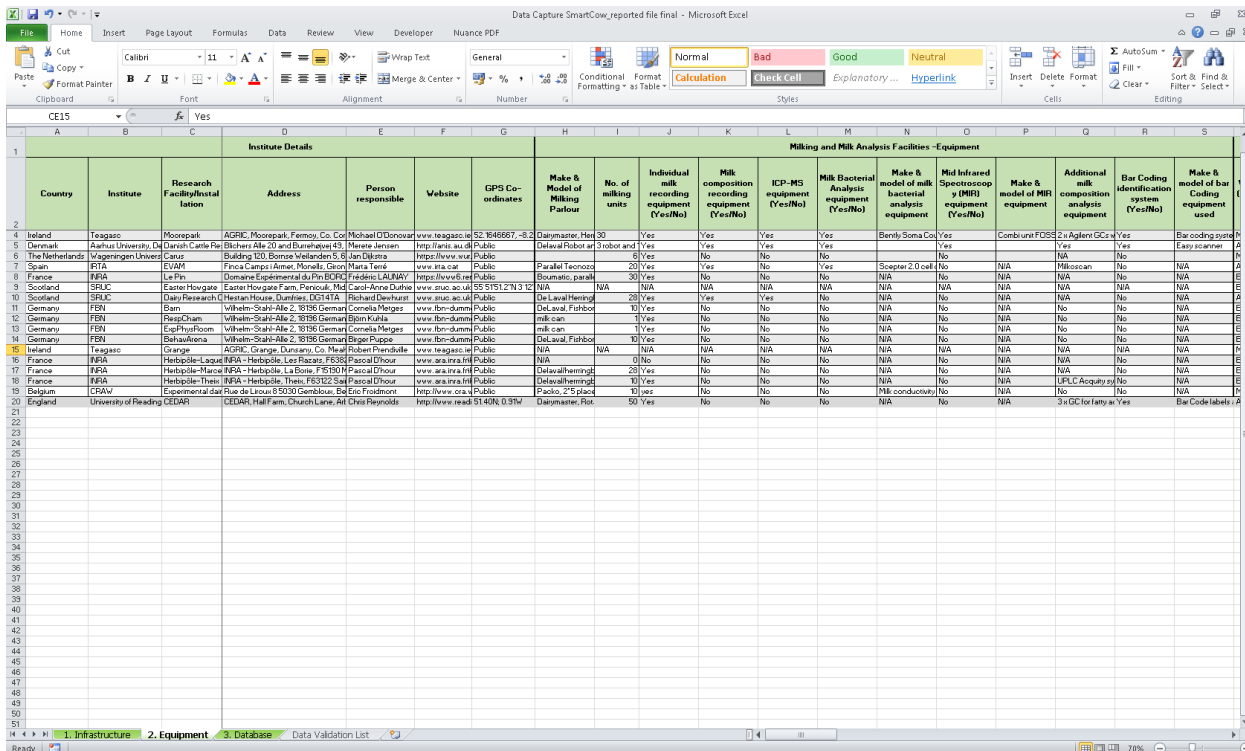
Once all information was returned it was collated into one document, validated and sent to partners working on Tasks 1.1 and 3.1 to allow them to further their respective work packages.



(Note: Rather than send three separate documents requiring information all the information required for Tasks 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 was created on different excel sheets within the one excel file)

3.1.1 Overview of data collected

To give an overview of the content of the database, the following are screen shots of the data which has been collected and passed to the relevant people in Task 1.1 and Task 3.1 to allow them to progress their respective areas.



Institute Details							Milking and Milk Analysis Facilities - Equipment											
Country	Institute	Research Facility/Installation	Address	Person responsible	Website	GPS Co-ordinates	Make & Model of Milking Parlour	No. of milking units	Individual milk recording equipment (Yes/No)	Milk composition recording equipment (Yes/No)	ICP-MS equipment (Yes/No)	Milk Bacterial Analysis equipment (Yes/No)	Make & Model of milk bacterial analysis equipment	Mid Infrared Spectroscopy (MIR) equipment (Yes/No)	Make & Model of MIR equipment	Additional milk composition analysis equipment	Bar Coding identification system (Yes/No)	Make & Model of bar Coding equipment used
Ireland	Teagasc	Moorepark	AGRIC, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork	Michael O'Donovan	www.teagasc.ie	52.946867, -8.2	Danmaster, Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Berly Soma Co	Yes	Combi unit FGS	2x Agilent GCs	Yes	Bar coding system
Denmark	Aarhus University	Denst-Carlse	Blichers Alle 20 and Børnshøjvej 15	Morten Jensen	http://ana.au.dk	Public	Delaval Robot at 3 robot and	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Netherlands	Wageningen UR	Canis	Building 100, Bornsesteindijk 5, 6718 ZG Wageningen	Jan Dijkstra	http://www.wur.nl	Public	Parallel 1econoz	20	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spain	RTA	EVAM	Finca Camps d'Almer, Monóvil, Girona	Marta Tena	www.rta.cat	Public	Summit 3000	30	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
France	INRA	Le Fin	Domaine Expérimental du Pin Elie, F-63122 Lempdes	LAUREN	http://www.inra.fr	Public	Delaval Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scotland	SRUC	Easter House	Easter House Farm, Pericuik, Midlothian	Carol-Anne Duthie	www.sruc.ac.uk	55.51512 N 3.10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scotland	SRUC	Dairy Research Unit	Weston House, Dunfermline	Richard Duthie	www.sruc.ac.uk	Public	Delaval Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	FFH	Bien	Wilhelm-Straße 2, 38186 Gernsdorf	Corinna Neugebauer	www.fon-dum.de	Public	Delaval Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	FFH	Reppich	Wilhelm-Straße 2, 38186 Gernsdorf	Corinna Neugebauer	www.fon-dum.de	Public	Delaval Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	FFH	CapPhylRoom	Wilhelm-Straße 2, 38186 Gernsdorf	Corinna Neugebauer	www.fon-dum.de	Public	Delaval Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	FFH	BehaWiKona	Wilhelm-Straße 2, 38186 Gernsdorf	Corinna Neugebauer	www.fon-dum.de	Public	Delaval Herd 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ireland	Teagasc	Grange	AGRIC, Grange, Dunlany, Co. Meath	Robert Phelan	www.teagasc.ie	Public	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Lesau	Herbipôle, Lesau, France	F3322 Pascal Dhour	www.inra.fr	Public	N/A	0	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Marcé	Herbipôle, Marcé, France	F3322 Pascal Dhour	www.inra.fr	Public	N/A	0	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Thiers	Herbipôle, Thiers, France	F3322 Pascal Dhour	www.inra.fr	Public	N/A	0	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
Belgium	CRAM	Experimental Data	Rue de Louvain 50, 1000 Brussels	Bart De Maessene	http://www.cram.be	Public	N/A	0	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
England	University of Reading	CEDAR	CEDAR, Half Farm, Church Lane, Abingdon	Chris Reynolds	http://www.read.ac.uk	51.408, 0.97W	Danmaster, Herd 30	Yes	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	3x GC for fat	Yes	Bar Code labels

Figure 1. List of research institutes and their respective milking and milk analysis facilities and equipment

Data Capture SmartCow, reported file name - Microsoft Excel																
AG44																
Bodyweight and Body Condition Score (BCS) - Equipment																
Blood sample analysis - Equipment																
Thermography - Equipment																
Feed Dry Matter Intake (DMI) - Equipment																
Country	Institute	Research Facility/Installation	Weighing scales (Manual/Automated)	Make & model of weighing scales	Automatic BCS Equipment (Yes/No)	Make & model of automated BCS equipment	Blood Sample analysis - Equipment (Yes/No)	Make & model of blood analysis equipment	Bar Coding Identification system (Yes/No)	Make & model of bar coding equipment used	Thermography (Yes/No)	Make & Model Thermography equipment used	Feed DMI Recorded (Yes/No)	Make & Model Individual feed DMI equipment	No. individual feed intakes (if any)	Total no. of animals which can be fed
Denmark	Aarhus University, Denmark	Danish Cattle Research Centre	Automated	Bjerringbrovej 173, 8260 Viborg	No	N/A	Yes		Yes		No	N/A	Yes	RIC, Insentec	215	250
The Netherlands	Wageningen University & Research	Cetus	Manual		No		No		No		No		Yes	Manual and automatic	6	6
Spain	IRTA	EVAM	Automated	Affram/Schneid	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Moo Feeder	90	20
France	INRA	Le Pin	Both	Marchal-Pes	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Biocontrol	32	60
Scotland	SRUC	Easter Howgate	Both	Trustest	No	N/A	Yes	Centralised lab facility	Yes	Labware Limsys	Yes	FLIR one (iphone)	Yes	Holo Farm (index)	60	150
Scotland	SRUC	Dairy Research	Automated	Insentec	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	FLIR one (iphone)	Yes	Insentec	50 feed, 8 water	120
Germany	FBN	Barn	Both	Delaval	No	N/A	Yes	Pentra 400	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Insentec	64	80
Germany	FBN	RespCham	Both	Delaval	No	N/A	Yes	Pentra 400	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Timm	4	4
Germany	FBN	EuphysRoom	Both	Delaval	No	N/A	Yes	Pentra 400	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Timm	6	6
Germany	FBN	BehavArena	Both	Delaval	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	0	6
Ireland	Teagasc	Grange	Manual	Trustest	No	N/A	Yes	Pentra 400 equipment	No	N/A	Yes	FLIR A325sc	No	N/A	0	0
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Lagueu	Both	all	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	BioControl/Dairy	8/64/45	125
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Marcen	Both	all	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	BioControl/Dairy	24/24	72
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Théix	Both	delaval	No	N/A	Yes	UPLC Acuity system from	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	DairyGate/dass	45/34	82
Belgium	CRAV	Experimental dairy	Manual	Packo	Yes	Bodymat	Yes	Ideco, Vetteest 8008	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	Manual, in mets	8	8
England	University of Reading	CEDAR	Automated	Dairymaster	No	N/A	Yes	Hereaus - Bioforce (str)	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Insentec (6 units)	206	200
1. Infrastructure 2. Equipment 3. Database Data Validation List																

Figure 2. List of research institutes and their respective equipment associated with bodyweight and body condition score (BCS) , blood sample analysis, thermography and feed dry matter intake (DMI)

AT42															
Methane - Equipment															
Country	Institute	Research Facility/Installation	Chambers equipment (Yes/No)	No. of chamber units	Make & model of chamber extraction unit & detector	Sf6 equipment (Yes/No)	Greenfeed equipment (Yes/No)	Make & model of Greenfeed equipment	Laser equipment (Yes/No)	Make & model of Laser equipment	Gas Chromatography (GS) machine (Yes/No)	Make & model of GC equipment	Other (if other please list)	Grk	
France	INRA	Le Pin	No	N/A	N/A	No	Yes	Clock	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Scotland	SRUC	Easter Howgate	Yes	6	Open circuit respi	No	No	No	yes	Laser methane det	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Scotland	SRUC	Dairy Research Cen	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	N/A	Yes	Laser methane TGE	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Germany	FBN	Barn	No	0		No	Yes	Large-Animals	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Germany	FBN	RespCham	Yes	4	Chamber: self-con	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Germany	FBN	ExpPhysRoom	No	0		No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Germany	FBN	BehavArena	No	0		No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	
Ireland	Teagasc	Grange	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	Bieran 3800	N/A	Yes	
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Lagueu	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	C-Lock system with	No	N/A	Yes	Varian-Chrompack CP9003; Perkin El		Yes	
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Marcen	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	C-Lock system with	No	N/A	Yes	Varian-Chrompack CP9003; Perkin El		Yes	
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Théix	Yes	n=8 open respirat	CP300 pressure tri	Yes	Yes	C-Lock system with	No	N/A	Yes	Varian-Chrompack CP9003; Perkin El		Yes	
Belgium	CRAV	Experimental dairy	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Built by ourselves	No	N/A				No	
England	University of Reading	CEDAR	Yes	4	ADC MGA3500 (CC	Yes	Yes	GreenFeed - Large	No	N/A	Yes	Bruker 450 GC		Yes	

Figure 3. List of research institutes and their respective equipment associated with methane measurements

SmartCow: an integrated infrastructure for increased research capability and innovation in the European cattle sector



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Figure 4. List of research institutes and their respective equipment associated with animal behaviour and fertility measurements

Data Capture SmartCow_reported file final - Microsoft Excel																			
AT42																			
A	B	C	DH	DI	DJ	DK	DL	DM	DN	DO	DP	DQ	DR	DS	DT	DU	DV	DW	
			Digestive System Analysis - Equipment				Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) - Equipment				Freeze Drying - Equipment				Meat Characteristics - Equipment				Weather
Country	Institute	Research Facility/Installation	Digestive system analysis equipment (Yes/No)	Male & model of digestive system analysis equipment	Other (foster please list)	NIR (Yes/No)	Male & Model of NIRS equipment	List samples analysed by NIR	Fresh NIRS analysis (Yes/No)	Portable NIRS analysis (Yes/No)	Barcoding identification equipment used (Yes/No)	Male & model of barcoding equipment used	Freeze Drying equipment (Yes/No)	Male & Model of Freeze Drying equipment	List samples Processed by Freeze Drying	Meat Characteristics equipment (Yes/No)	Male & model of meat characteristic equipment	Weather Characteristics equipment (Yes/No)	
France	INRA	Le Pin	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	
Scotland	SRUC	Baxter Hewart	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Centralised lab	Forage, concentrate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Labware Link sys	No	N/A	Centralised lab facility	Feed samples, etc	Various	Yes	
Scotland	SRUC	Dairy Research Ctr	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	
Germany	FBN	Barn	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	cylinder and vacuum purified feed and faeces	No	N/A	Yes	
Germany	FBN	RespiCham	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	cylinder and vacuum purified feed and faeces	No	N/A	Yes	
Germany	FBN	ExpPhysRoom	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	cylinder and vacuum purified feed and faeces	No	N/A	Yes	
Germany	FBN	BehavKreuz	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	No	
Ireland	Teagasc	Grange	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	FOSS NIR System	Grass, concentrate	Yes	No	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	Lyophilisation	Concentrate, grass, clover, silage	N/A	Yes	
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Laqueu	Yes	PERKIN ELMER Ci	rumen pH and Te	Yes	FOSS NIR System	Forage, faeces, etc	No	No	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	MUT/PCPLUS 5.001 A (C) Feed	Forages and	spectrocalimetre	Yes	
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Marcle	Yes	PERKIN ELMER Ci	rumen pH and Te	Yes	FOSS NIR System	Forage, faeces, etc	No	No	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	MUT/PCPLUS 5.001 A (C) Feed	Forages and	spectrocalimetre	Yes	
France	INRA	Herbipôle-Thaix	Yes	PERKIN ELMER Ci	rumen pH and Te	Yes	FOSS NIR System	Forage, faeces, etc	No	No	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	MUT/PCPLUS 5.001 A (C) Feed	Forages and	spectrocalimetre	Yes	
Belgium	CRAW	Experimental dairy	No	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Martin Chou, Delta 1-4-6 Grass, clover, silage	No	N/A	Yes	
England	University of Reading	CEDAR	Yes	Ankom Dairy, Tilt	In sacco degradation	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Severn Super Module, 3D Feeds, faeces, etc	No	N/A	Yes	

Figure 5. List of research institutes and their respective equipment associated with digestive system analysis, near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), freeze drying and meat characteristics



4 Results and Implications

All partners within the consortium agreement filled out the database and returned it. As a result SmartCow now has a comprehensive catalogue of all the available equipment and related techniques within each of the consortium research institutes.

This information can now be developed into an interactive map (D1.2) which will be available for everyone with access to the SmartCow website to view.

The information was also sent to those involved in WP 3.1 and will help attain their deliverable (D3.3) of producing a book of experimental methods in Ruminant Physiology which will be available to the public.

Into the future the database created can also be sent to research institutes outside of the SmartCow consortium to garner further information regarding available equipment and related techniques within their research institutes. This will allow a more exhaustive list of equipment and techniques to be established (milestones in year 2, 3 and 4 of the project). This will allow existing infrastructures to update their data in the database. Beyond the SmartCow project, the database can be reissued in future infrastructure projects.