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By Star-Advertiser Staff and News Services

Seawater Air Conditioning clears hurdle

Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC said it has successfully completed its survey of buried utility cables and pipes as it prepares to begin construction early next year on a project that will use cold ocean water to provide air conditioning for office buildings in downtown Honolulu.

The company drilled holes using a "keyhole" technique and used ground-penetrating radar to verify locations of 17 "targeted utilities at critical areas" of HSWAC's chilled water distribution network, the company said.

HSWAC recently signed a 55-year agreement to lease a 30,000-square-foot parcel in Kakaako from Kamehameha Schools to build and operate the pumping station and heat exchange facility for its sea water cooling system. Service to customers is projected to start sometime in 2013.