



# *Machine Learning for Water Main Condition Assessment*

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Water Main Data

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

# Fracta Overview

## – Bringing AI to Infrastructure

- Founded in 2015
- Presence in North America, Japan, and Europe.
- Strategic Investor: Kurita Water Industries



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### Corporate Philosophy

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**Study the properties of water, master them,  
and we will create an environment in which  
nature and man are in harmony**



# Fracta – References

Over 100 utilities around the world (US, UK, Asia) have used Fracta's M.L. network to analyze more than 150,000 miles of pipe and 300,000 individual breaks.



# What we do

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to Infrastructure

- **Fracta partners with Utilities to assist in updating, improving, and optimize their infrastructure data.**
  - From missing and inaccurate data, to advanced programs. We help utilities with their data needs by utilizing machine learning.
- **Digital Desktop Condition Assessment – Water Distribution Networks**
- Automated Pipe Data Reconstruction
- **LoF, CoF, and Total Risk** analysis for over 150,000 miles of water main
- Sewer Distribution Model (LoF)
- Gas Pipeline Model

# Case study - Johnstown

## Network properties:

- Length: 303 Miles
- Average consumption: 6.5 MGD
- Summer consumption: 10 MGD
- End Customers: 21 000



## Results:

Within the first seven months of using Machine Learning LoF results, GJWA was able to correctly identify **75%** of the hidden leaks in 15 pipe segments, saving the utility **20%** in Non-Revenue Water loss.



**FRACTA** **KURITA**  
FRACTA CASE STUDY  
Using Artificial Intelligence to reduce non-revenue water loss in Pennsylvania

**THE UTILITY**  
GREATER JOHNSTOWN  
WATER AUTHORITY

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority (GJWA) in Pennsylvania was incorporated under the Municipality Authorities Act in 1964 by the city of Johnstown and boroughs of Westmont and Southmont as a joint municipal authority to provide potable water to the Greater Johnstown area.

GJWA serves a base of more than 21,000 customers through 303 miles of water distribution pipes. The average consumption is approximately 6.5 million gallons per day (MGD) with peak consumption in the summer at 10 MGD. It operates three dams, two wells, a water treatment plant at Riverside, a water treatment plant at the Saltlick Reservoir, and numerous storage tanks and pump stations, pipe being 75-100 years old.

**21,000** CUSTOMERS  
**303** MILES  
**6.5 MGD** AVERAGE CONSUMPTION  
**10 MGD** SUMMER CONSUMPTION

**Johnstown, Pennsylvania**

**THE CHALLENGE**  
REDUCING NON-REVENUE WATER LOSS WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

Reducing Non-Revenue (NRW) water loss is challenging since it is not apparent where it is happening within the network, or what could be causing it.

While pumping stations can signal when water loss may be happening somewhere in the distribution network, the precise location of that loss is not known. Sending a crew out to hunt for the source of loss can be time-consuming, costly, and often inconclusive.

Over time, leaks can become breaks which present an even greater risk to community safety and business operations. As a challenge, managing pipeline integrity is as important to address as it has been difficult to address—up until now, treatment plant at Riverside, a water treatment plant at the Saltlick Reservoir, and numerous storage tanks and pump stations, pipe being 75-100 years old.

*Case study Greater Johnstown Water Authority*

# Case Study – Topeka, Kansas



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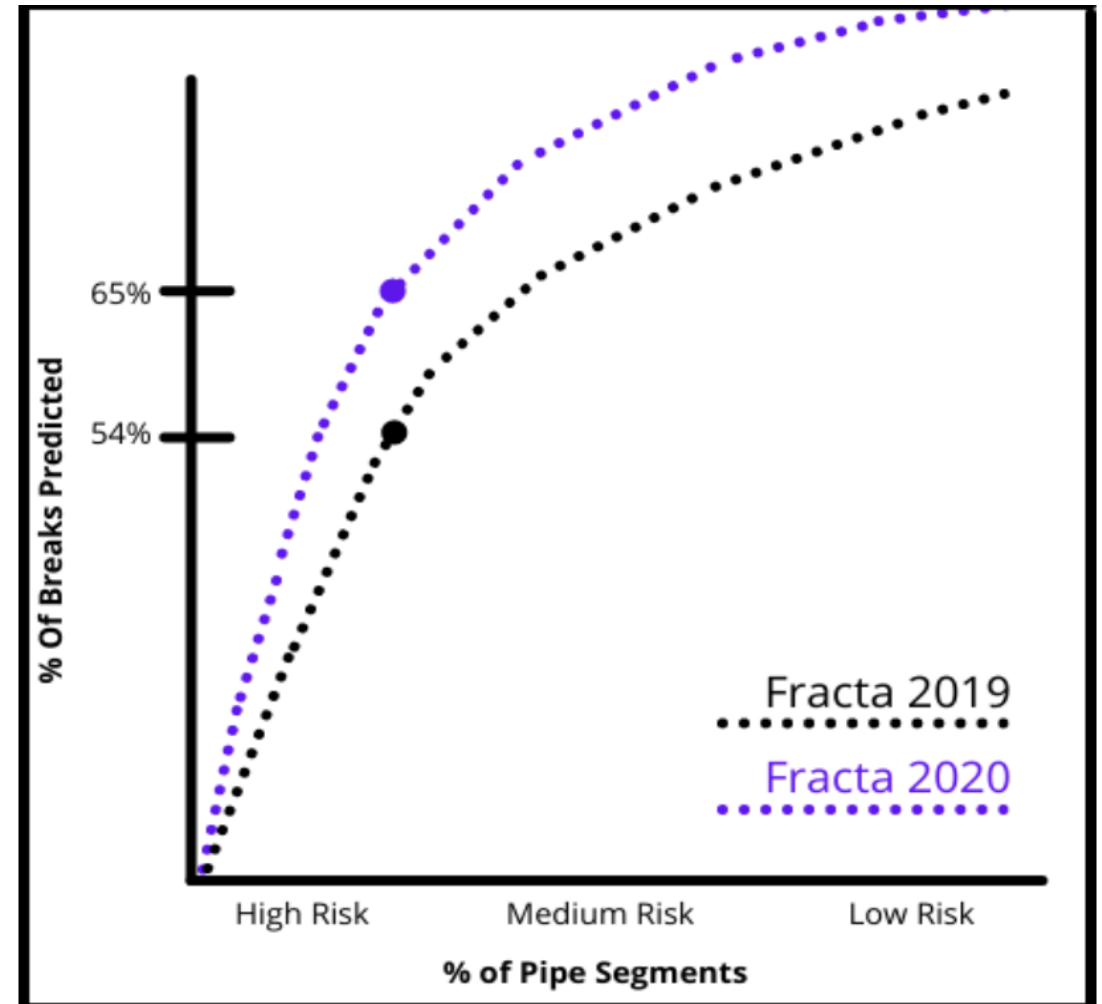
## Network properties:

- Miles of Pipe: 870
- Population Served: 126,000

## Results:

- Fracta's 2020 model correctly predicted 65% of pipe failures in the highest-risk tier. An 11% increase in accuracy in just one year.

**“Given the fact that myself and two engineers are managing \$6.5M worth of waterline replacements each year, we find that having a resource like Fracta to help make data driven decisions on which line to replace, is invaluable”** Braxton Copley, Director



# Fracta Project – 3-Step Implementation Process



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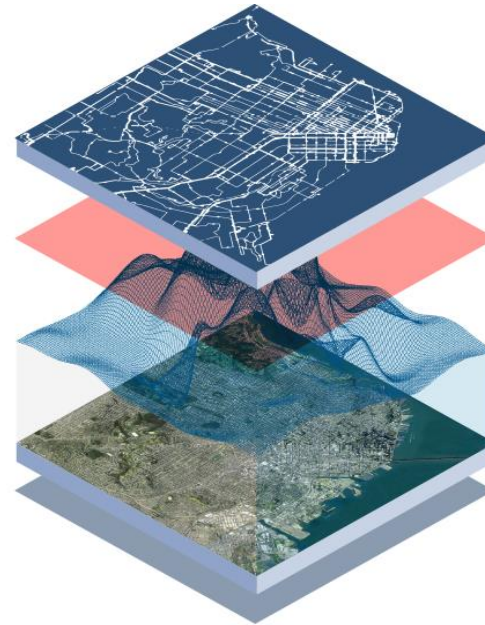
1

Collect pipe asset & failure data  
from utility\*



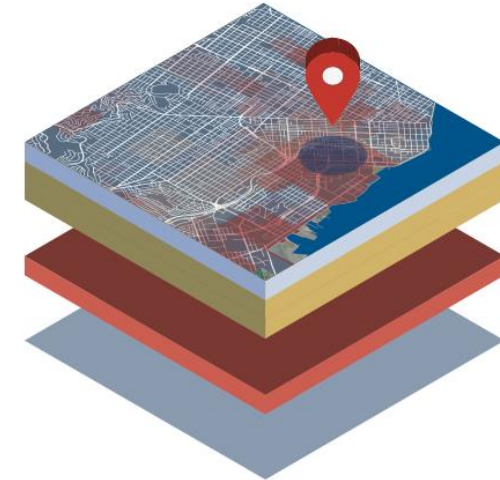
2

Analysis using ML including all pipe,  
break, environmental and proprietary  
data



3

Break prediction mapping  
and visualization



\*Cleansing and rectifying data is done automatically by Fracta

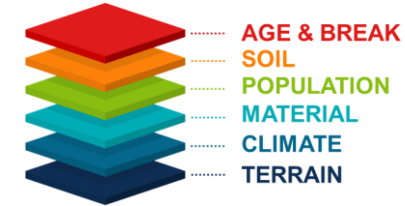
# Differences of Fracta ML Technology



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## Age/Break Model

## Machine Learning Technology



Pipe Asset Data & Break history

Minimal geographical factors

Local Learning Network

Pipe Asset Data & Break history

150 geographical factors

Global Machine learning data base

Manual customization necessary

No match with other customers

Continuous improvement through self-learning

Access to large database (big data solution)

High data processing and data acquisition costs

Limitations for clouded areas

Applicable even with incomplete/limited customer data

Automatic model updates with new data



Fracta solution provides higher accuracy and useful predictions to plan ahead.

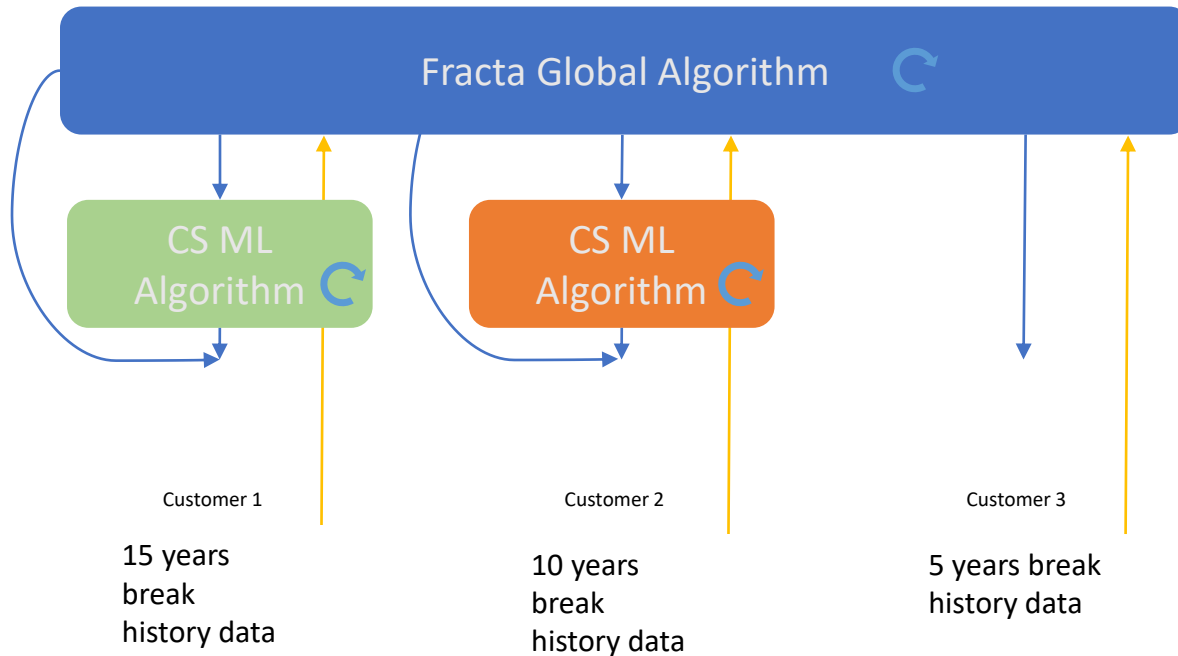


# Fracta Model



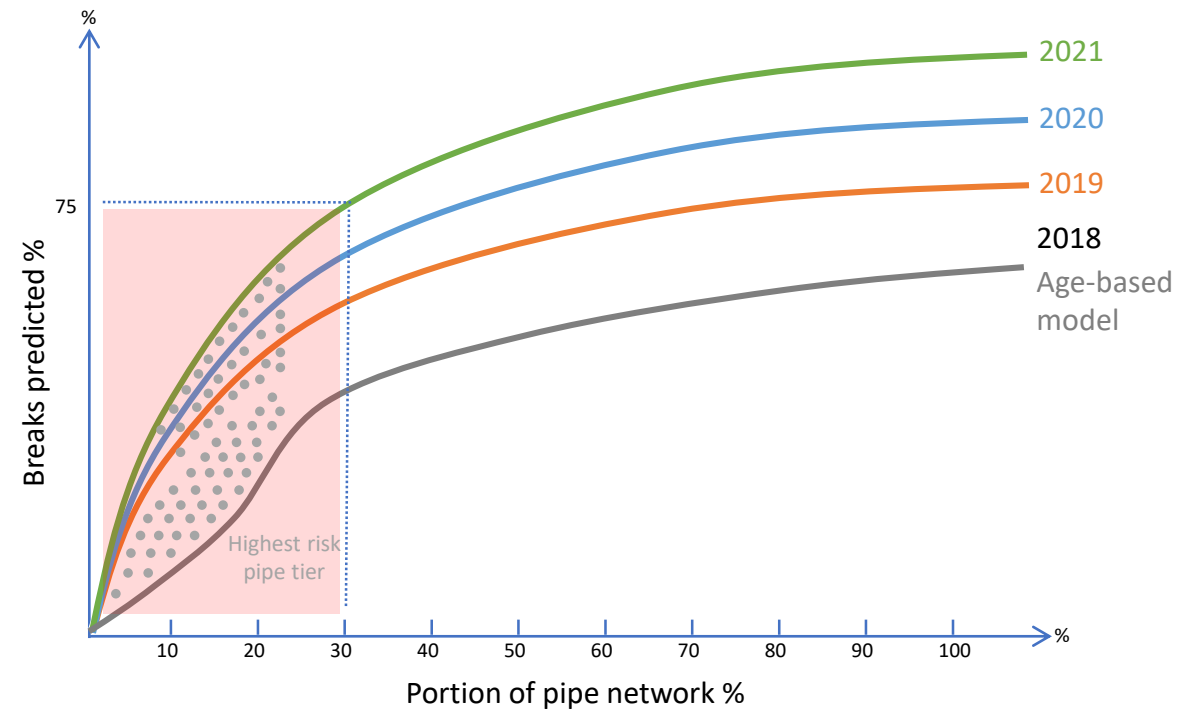
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## More data for better AI



In a time shift study, **break history data** is an important deciding factor. **More break data** allows Fracta to deliver an advanced customer specific ML algorithm to deliver the most accurate customer solution, thus **best value**, for the following **two years**.

## Continuous improvement of Machine Learning Model



- Fracta model improves year to year. In 2021, **75% of breaks were correctly predicted** in the highest risk pipe tier.
- Since 2018, Fracta model has been recording better than customers age-based model the breaks in the top 30% risking area of the networks.

# Advantages of Fracta

## Easy and Flexible



- No hardware required
- Accept any format of pipe and break history data

## Fast



- Results come in 4 – 6 weeks
- Results can be updated whenever desired

## Constant Improvement



- New features improvements regularly
- AI & ML make quarterly updates



Fracta assesses the condition and risk of water mains and determines which pipes to replace (and which not to replace).

# Fracta Features

# LoF: Likelihood of Failure



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## Definition

LoF determines the statistical probability that a water main will fail, leveraging existing data with hundreds of variables.

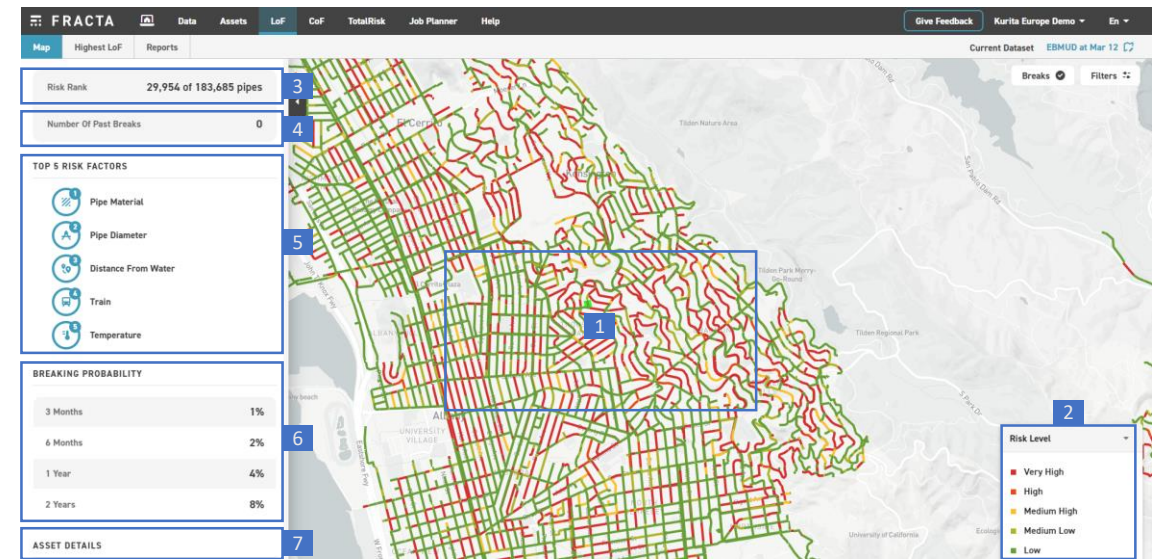
## Interpretation

High LoF means high risk of failures. Fracta detects the potential sources of leakages and determine the remaining time before the first break.

## Feature advantages



LoF indicator based on the customer data set uses AI & ML to display how likely breaks can occur in the area.



*LoF map feature*

1	Map: Visualize the pipes of your area according the chosen filters.
2	Filters: Select how display the pipes on the map, by Risk Level for example.
3	Risk Rank: LoF Ranking of the selected pipe out of the total pipes composing the water network.
4	Number of Past Breaks: Break history of the selected pipe
5	Top 5 risk factors: Environmental factors that could explain future leakages or breaks.
6	Breaking probability: Probability of the selected pipe to break in the coming month/year.
7	Asset Details: Detail about the selected pipe (length, diameter, material...).

# CoF: Cost of Failure



## Definition

CoF determines the consequences, or severity, of the water main failure and quantifies the direct and indirect costs of those failures.



## Interpretation

High CoF means a high cost to replace the pipe. Fracta crosses direct cost (maintenance, etc.) with indirect cost (Traffic, property damages, etc.) to provide the most accurate pricing.



## Feature advantages

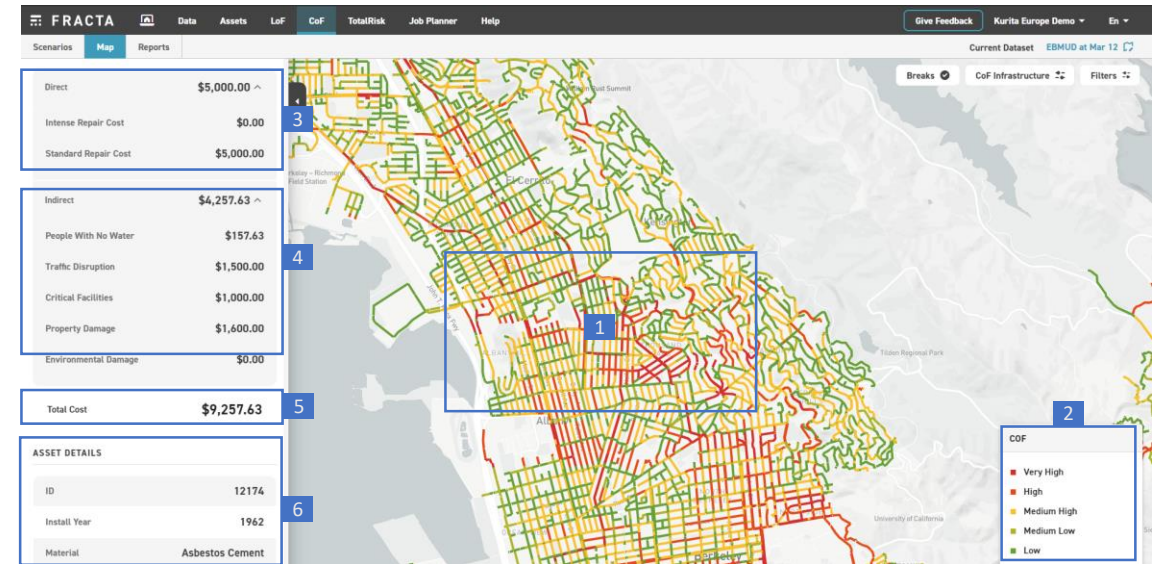


Pricing vision



Cost of breaks

CoF offers an accurate estimate about the real cost of pipes replacement in case of breaks/failures.



CoF map feature

1	Map: Visualize the pipes of your area according the chosen filters.
2	Filters: Select how display the pipes on the map, by Cost of Failure for example.
3	Direct costs detail: estimate cost of the operation, maintenance and replacement if a break occurs.
4	Indirect costs detail: estimate cost of the indirect consequences of the break: traffic disruption, people with no water, etc...
5	Total cost: Direct cost + Indirect cost
6	Asset Details: Detail about the selected pipe (length, diameter, material).

# Total Risk



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## Definition

Total Risk crosses breaking probability and CoF to determine how worth it is to replace a selected pipe. This indicator is also known as Business Risk Exposure.



## Interpretation

High Total Risk means high risk of breaks and or high cost to replace.



## Feature advantages

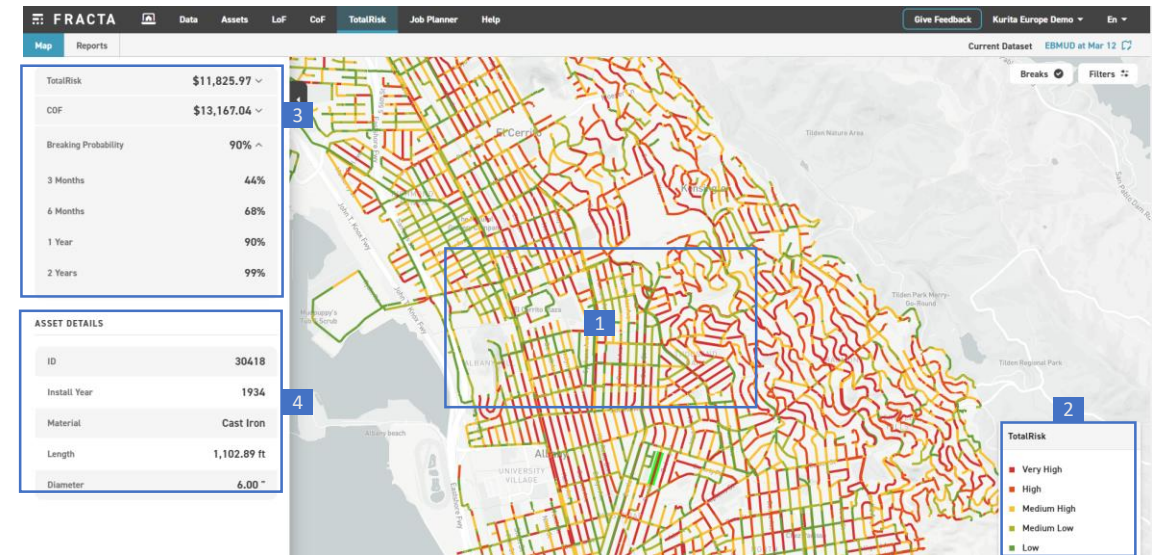


Pricing vision



Target pipes to replace

**Total Risk** supports the decision maker by offering the possibility to target through price or breaking probability.



*Total Risk map feature*

1	Map: Visualize the pipes of your area according the chosen filters.
2	Filters: Select how display the pipes on the map, by Total Risk for example. A recommended analysis is to display very high total risk with low CoF to target breaks.
3	Total Risk = LoF x CoF
4	Asset Details: Detail about the selected pipe (length, diameter, material...).