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2022 Intelligent
Maintenance
Conference



Asset Integrity Inspection of Subsurface Defects and Foresight Sensing via Millimeter-wave Radar

- Presented by Mr. Daniel Mitchell
- Co-presented by Mr. Sam Harper
- Project Lead- Prof. David Flynn

**WORLD
CHANGING
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THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
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2022**

**SCOTTISH
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OF THE YEAR**



Asset Integrity Inspection

- Continuous cycles of monitoring and repair are vital to the economic development and functions of a community.
- This relates to critical infrastructure of all types in Energy, Transport, Civil and Water sectors.
- Inspection Maintenance and Repair are vital to ensure the safe operation of an asset or resource.
- Increasing demand and diversity in applications for non-destructive sensing mechanisms to provide detailed inspection.





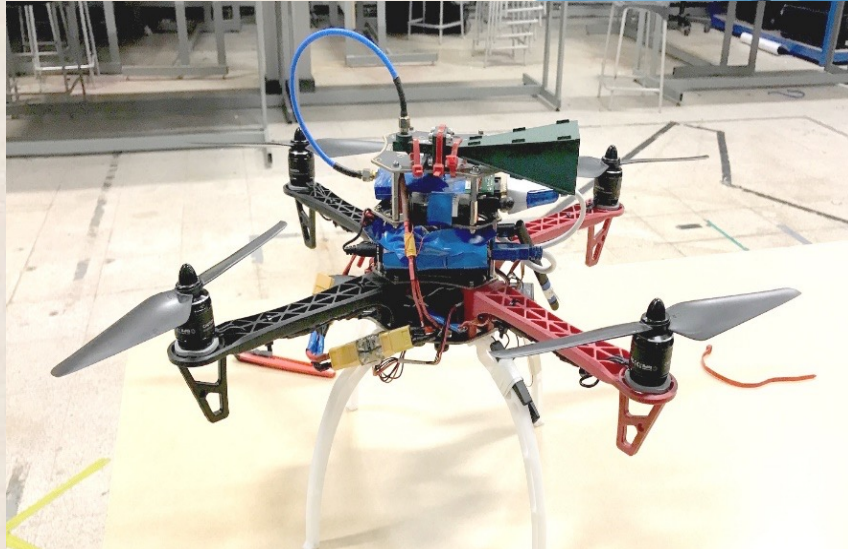
Challenge and Motivation

- **Increased number of Wind Turbine Blades**
 - Seagreen Wind Farm (Commissioned August 2022) (114 turbines)
 - Enough power for 1 million homes
 - Displace more than 2 million tonnes of CO₂ each year
- **Increased size of wind turbine blades**
 - Increased length of blades
 - Higher tower
 - Increased risk at working from height
- **Positioned further offshore**
 - More dynamic weather conditions



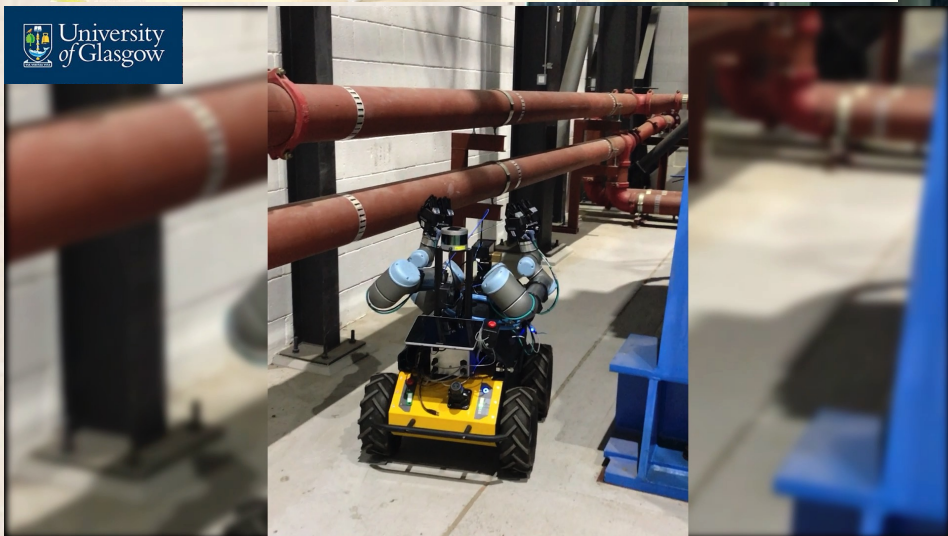


Millimeter-Wave Sensing



Key Advantages

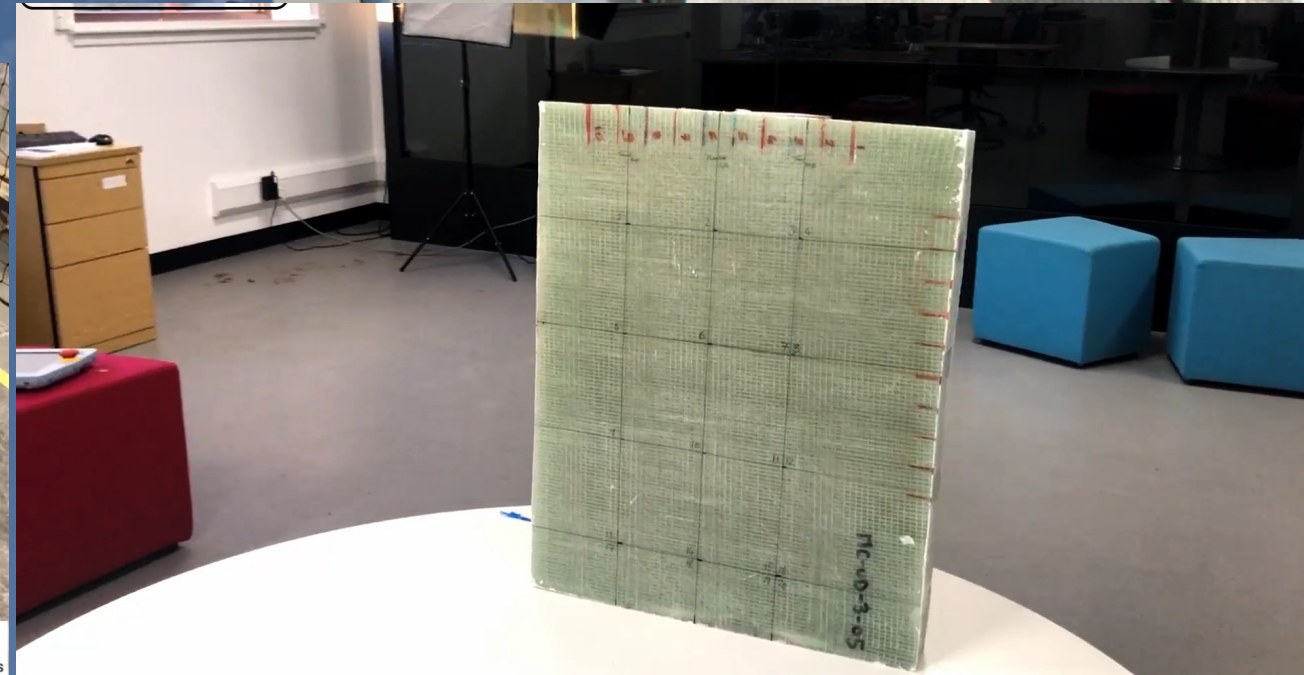
- Low power
- Non-contact
- Non-Destructive
- Non-invasive
- High Sensitivity to water and porosity
- Real-time sensing
- Run-time front end analysis





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Case Study - Wind Turbine Blades



Machine Learning achieved 98.5% Classification Accuracy against healthy and uncured monolithic material

Machine Learning Analysis of Non-Destructive Evaluation Data from Radar Inspection of Wind Turbine- <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9563264>

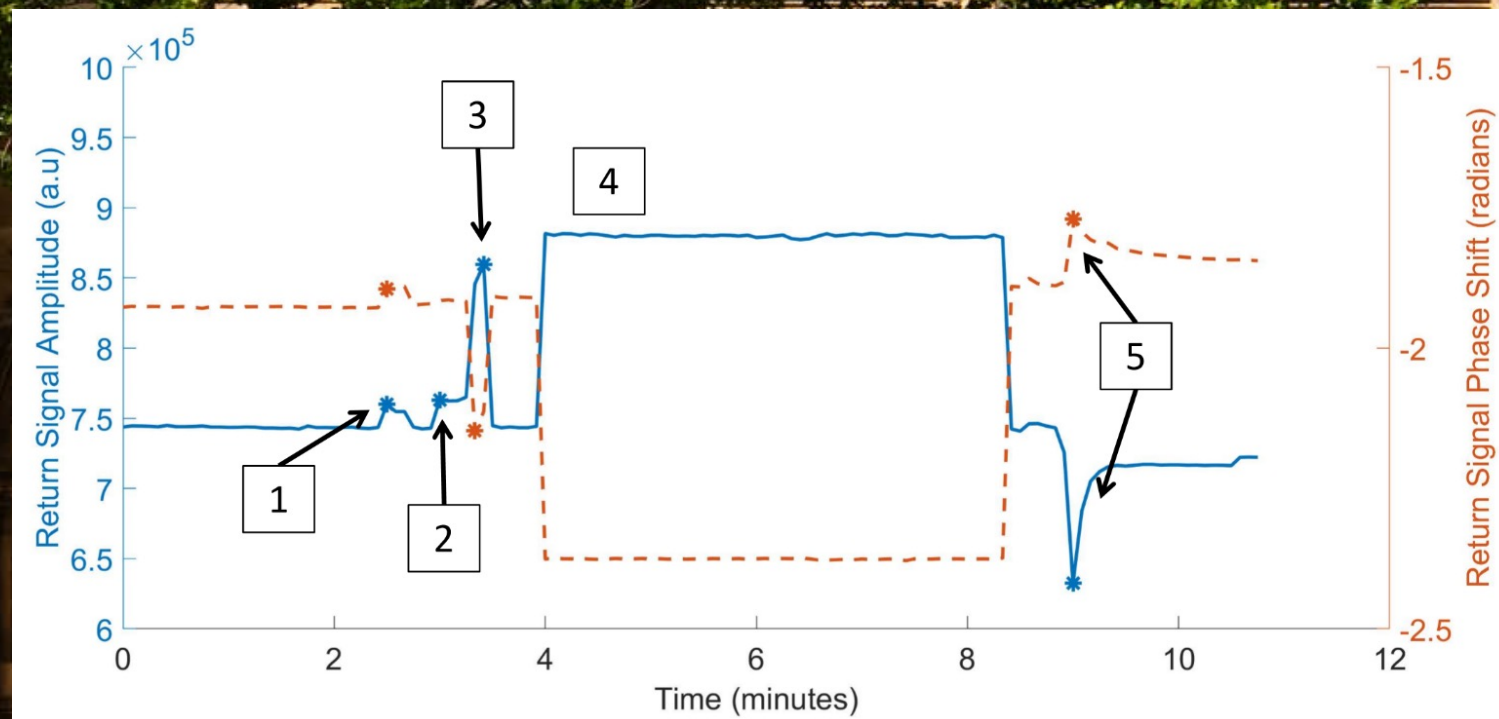
Case Study – Decommissioned Wind Turbine Blade



Fully decommissioned wind turbine blade

- Assess the sensitivity of the FMCW radar sensor to various properties present on the blade
- Assessment of how long it could take to complete an automated scan of a blade of this size
- Publication available soon

Case Study - Civil Infrastructure



Return Signal
Amplitude

Phase

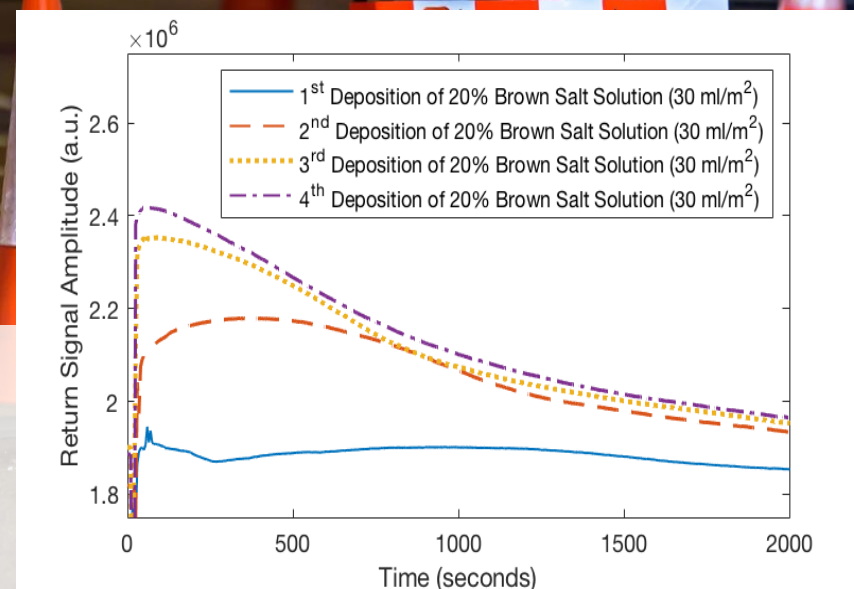
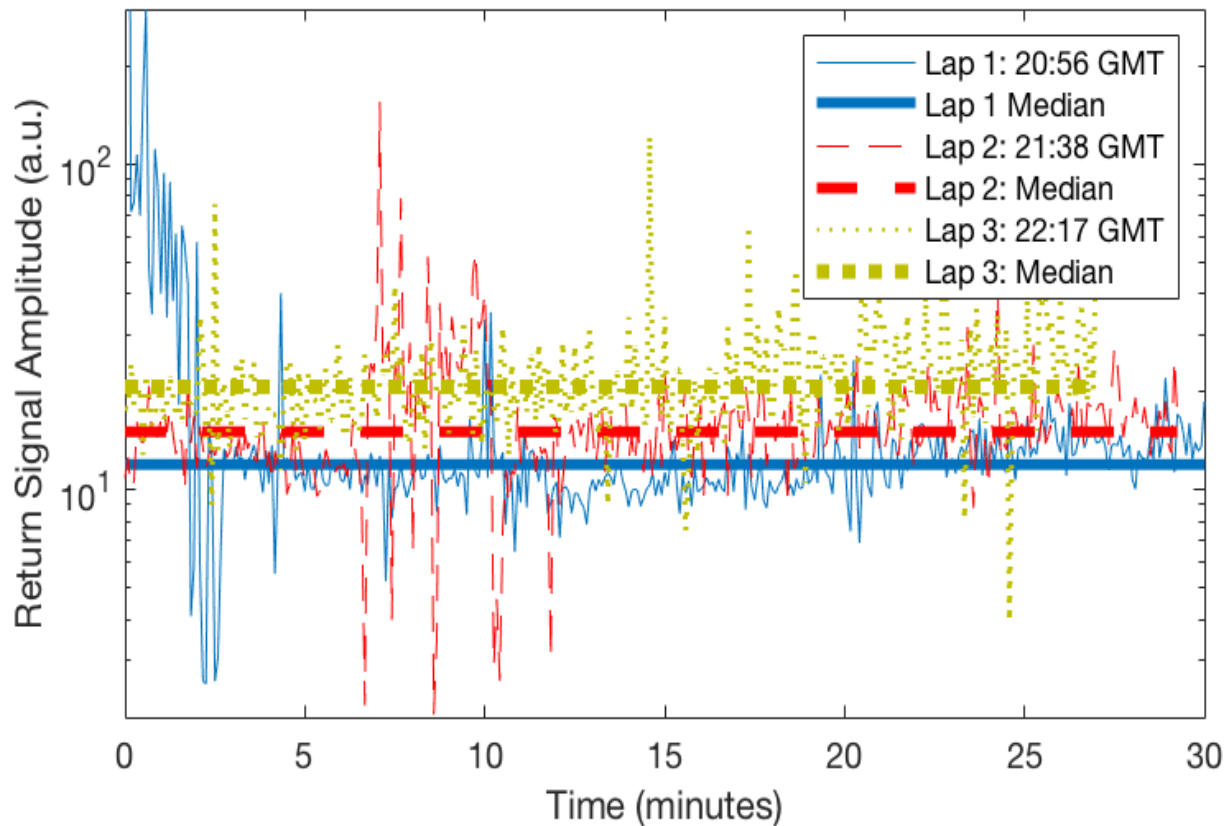
Time of Flight

Real
Permittivity

Water
Presence

Metal
Presence

Case Study – Salt and Road Surface Conditions



Key Metrics:

3 x ~30 minute night trials using circuitous route in Dundee

10g/m² marine salt deposited during each trial

Run-Time Analysis of Road Surface Conditions Using Non-Contact Microwave Sensing

10.1109/GCALoT51063.2020.9345917



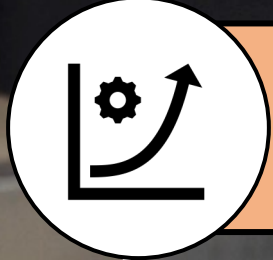
Foresight Sensing - What is it?



Trust

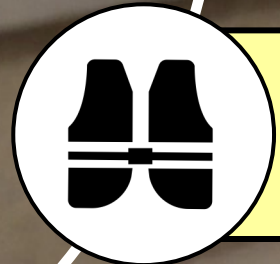
Trust that an autonomous system will operate as intended

Training to ensure that an operator can maximise the effective deployment of autonomous systems



Resilience

The ability for an autonomous system to adapt to unforeseen circumstances and overcome barriers



Safety

The ability for an autonomous system to update safety compliance protocols

Safety compliance of robots and humans in shared workspaces

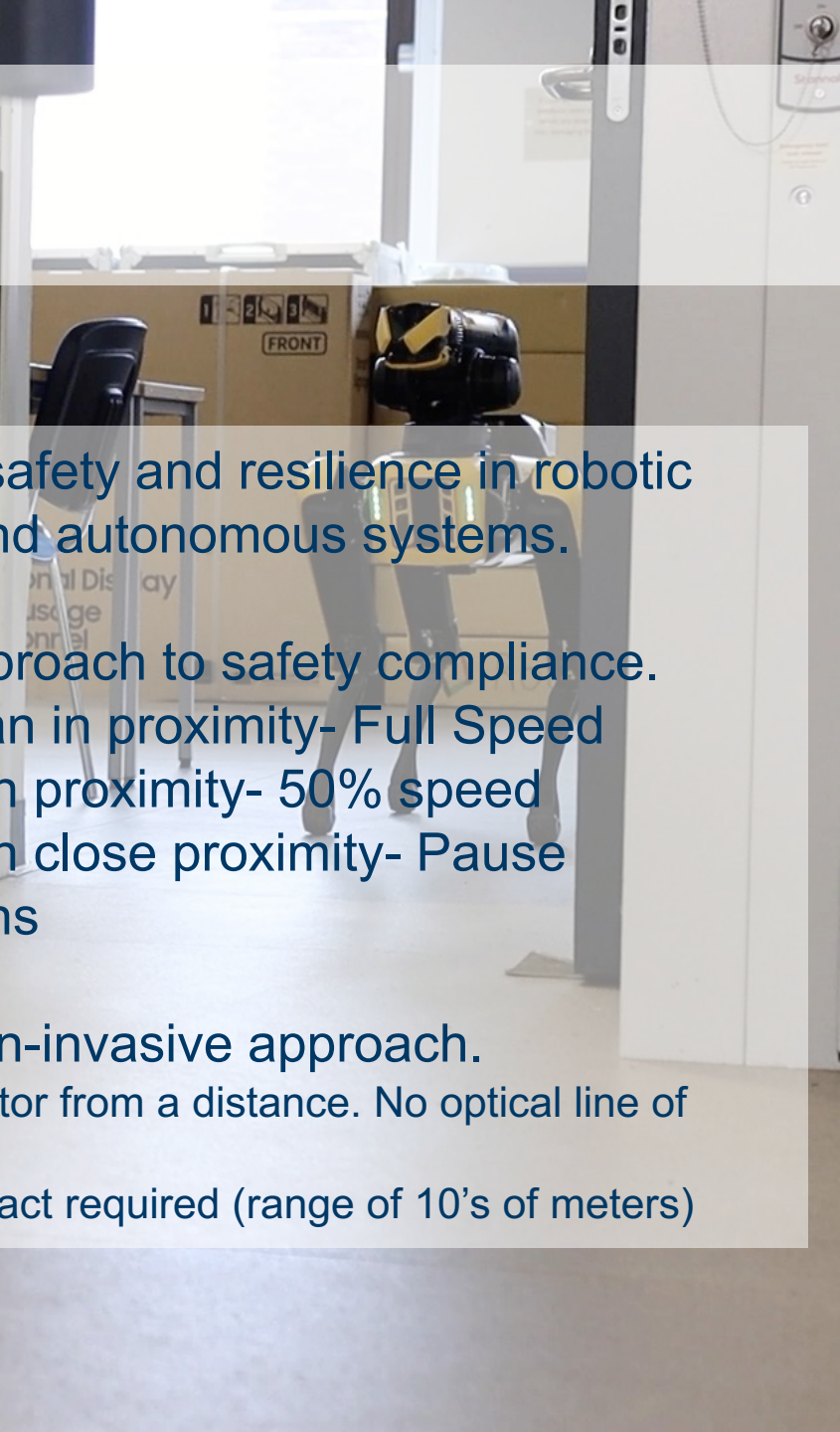
Increasing safety and resilience in robotic platforms and autonomous systems.

Layered approach to safety compliance.

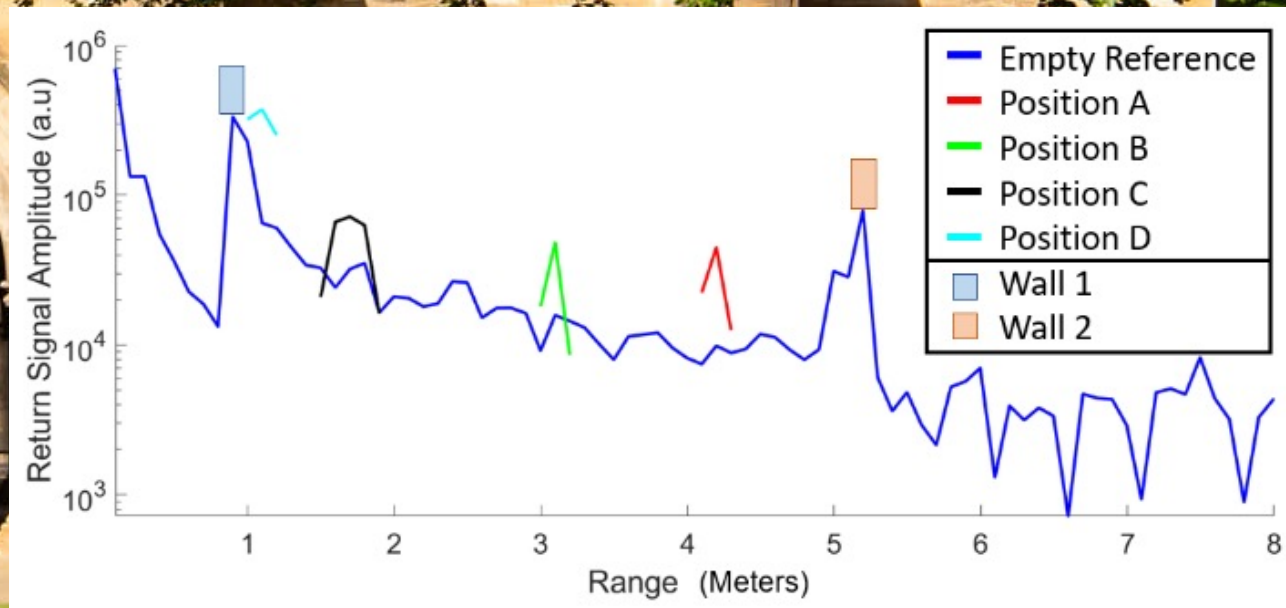
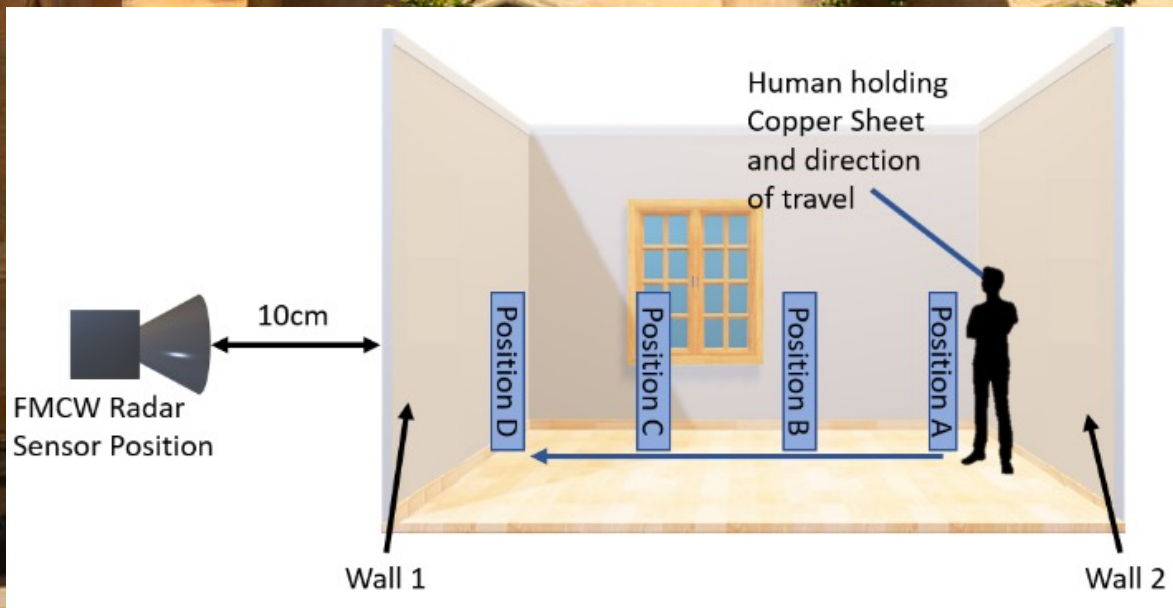
- No human in proximity- Full Speed
- Human in proximity- 50% speed
- Human in close proximity- Pause operations

Privacy- Non-invasive approach.

- Ability to monitor from a distance. No optical line of sight required
- No direct contact required (range of 10's of meters)



Foresight Sensing – Through Wall

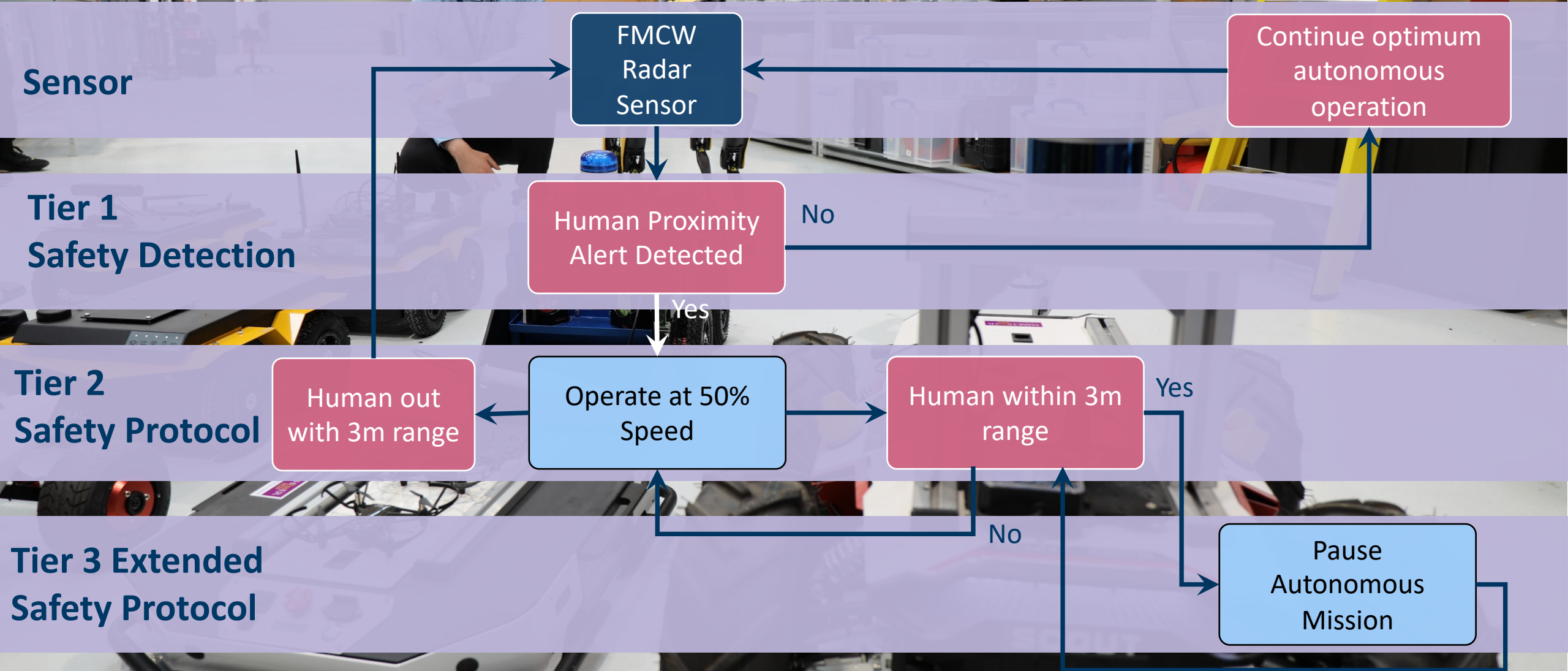


Foresight sensing

- To address concealed threats that are dynamic and are not within the immediate line of sight.
- If someone is walking into the room, we can detect ahead of time the point of entry



Foresight Sensing-Human Proximity Alerting



Sensor

Tier 1
Safety Detection

Tier 2
Safety Protocol

Tier 3 Extended
Safety Protocol

FMCW
Radar
Sensor

Continue optimum
autonomous
operation

Human Proximity
Alert Detected

No

Yes

Human out
with 3m range

Operate at 50%
Speed

Human within 3m
range

Yes

No

Pause
Autonomous
Mission



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@ROBOT_MYTHS

Mr. Daniel Mitchell- D.Mitchell.5@research.gla.ac.uk



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-mitchell1/>



Smart Systems Group
University of Glasgow



Mitchell *et. al.* 'Symbiotic System of Systems Design for Safe and Resilient Autonomous Robotics in Offshore Wind' Farms

doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3117727



Machine Learning Analysis of Non-Destructive Evaluation Data from Radar Inspection of Wind Turbine Blades

doi: 10.1109/SDPC52933.2021.9563264 **IEEE Xplore**[®]

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