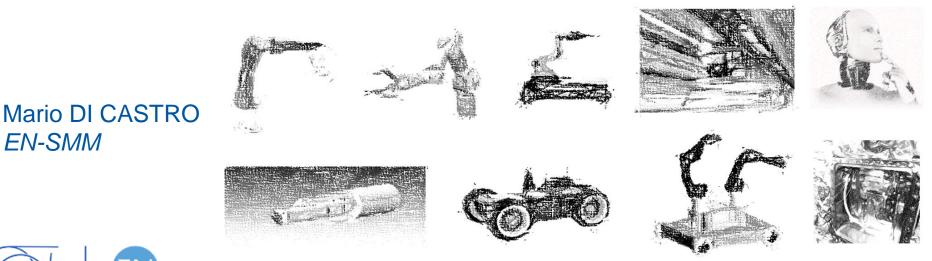
# **Robotic Solutions for CERN Accelerator Harsh Environments**





EN-SMM

EP-DT Technical Seminar, 21st May 2019

## Contents

- Introduction to Robotics
- Needs and Challenges for Robotic Solutions
- > Operational Systems
- R&D and Artificial Intelligence
- Conclusions



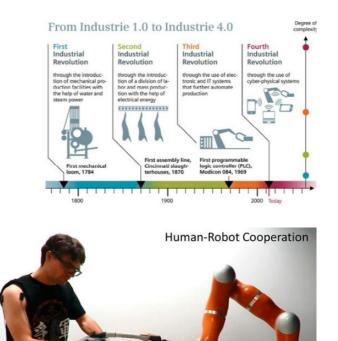
## **Robotics**

### Industry 4.0

- ✓ Robots
- ✓ Artificial intelligence
- ✓ Internet of things
- ✓ Diffuse signals
- ✓ Sensor fusion
- Simplification in the use of robots

### Human-robot cooperation

- ✓ ISO 2011
- ✓ Robots can assist humans
- Robot learning by demonstration





## Robotics: type of robots (based on controls) **Robots Teleoperated** Autonomous Semi-autonomous Self learning Wireless Wired **Pre-programmed**



## Robotics: type of robots (based on application)

- ✓ Hobbies, competition and entertainment
  - □ Suitable for high school teaching
- ✓ Industrial
  - Repetitive tasks
- ✓ Medical
  - □ Surgery/Rehabilitation
- Domestic or household
- Military
- Service and space robot
  - Research
  - Intelligent











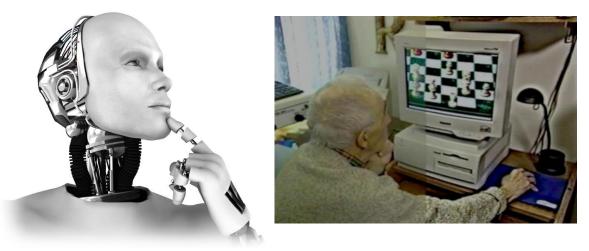




## **Artificial Intelligence**

### Intelligence exhibited by machines [1] [2]

- ✓ Localization
- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Learning
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Decision making
- ✓ Perception/Sensing





### Robots made in Hollywood

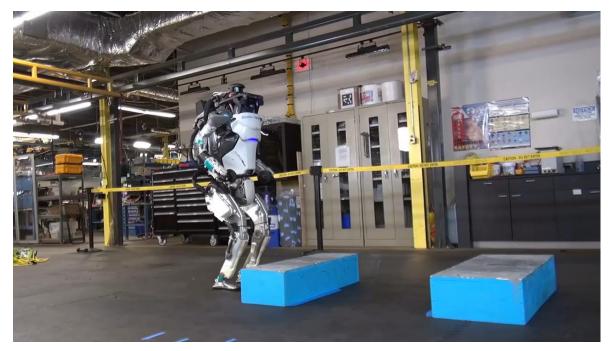
### iRobot, Chicago 2035





### Robots made by Boston Dynamics

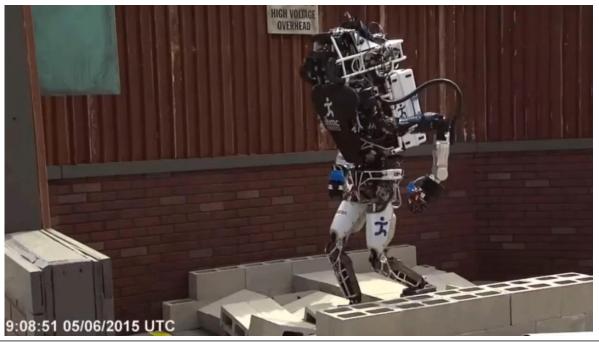
#### A mystery for the robotic community





### Robots in reality (R&D)

#### **DARPA Robotics Challenge** [5]





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### Robots in reality (field robotics)

#### ✓ Inspection robots

- ✓ Snake robots
- ✓ Oil and gas industries to





#### ✓ Telemanipulators

Nuclear decommissioning

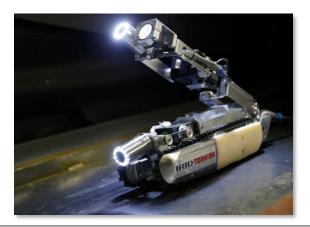






## Robots in reality (field robotics)

- > The only reliable robotic solutions exist in industry for repetitive tasks
- Plenty of ideas and prototypes coming from university, but none of them work reliably for harsh and unstructured environments
  - At Fukushima, no robot has been capable of safely inspecting the zone and returning to the base [6]







### **Robotics**

### Ethical aspects [3] [4]

- ✓ Will robots replace humans?
- ✓ Will robots take our jobs?
- ✓ Will robots make humans unnecessary?
- Is humanity just a phase in a robotic evolution?







### **Robotics**

There is a lot of potential in this technology to be beneficial for people
Ultimately, everything depends on how we decide to use the technology



Robots must improve the quality of work by taking over dangerous, tedious and dirty jobs that are not possible or safe for humans to perform



## Robotics mandate at CERN

The "mission" of tele-robotics at CERN may be resumed in the following:

# Ensuring safety of Personnel improving availability of CERN's accelerators





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## **Needs for Mechatronics/Robotics at CERN**

- Control, inspection, operation and maintenance of radioactive particle accelerators devices
- > Experimental areas and objects not built to be remote handled/inspected
  - ✓ Any intervention may lead to "surprises"
  - Risk of contamination



The LHC tunnel



North Area experimental zone



Radioactive sample handled by a robot



### **Difficulties for tele-robotics at CERN**

Radiation, magnetic disturbances, delicate equipment not designed for robots, big distances, communication, time for the intervention, highly skilled technicians required (non robotic operators), etc.





### Challenges for robotic solutions @ CERN

- Design of new equipment has however to keep in mind our goals:
  - ✓ Safety of Personnel
  - ✓ Maximize availability



- We cannot risk that a robot stops in the middle of the accelerator, or provokes an accident heavier than the problem it is trying to solve
- Risk analysis and recovery scenarios in the implementation of robotic solutions comes before any decision for the intervention



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### **Object Detection and Recognition for Teleoperation #1**

Teleoperation is strongly increased during the last years at CERN [7]



Telemax robot



EXTRM robot with single arm (CERN made)



The TIM (CERN made)



Teodor robot



EXTRM robot (CERN made)



CERNbot (CERN made)



CRANEbot (CERN made)



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### **Object Detection and Recognition for Teleoperation #1**

Teleoperation is strongly increased during the last years at CERN [5] [19-22]







RANEbot (CERN made)

Teodor robot

EXTRM robot (CERN made)

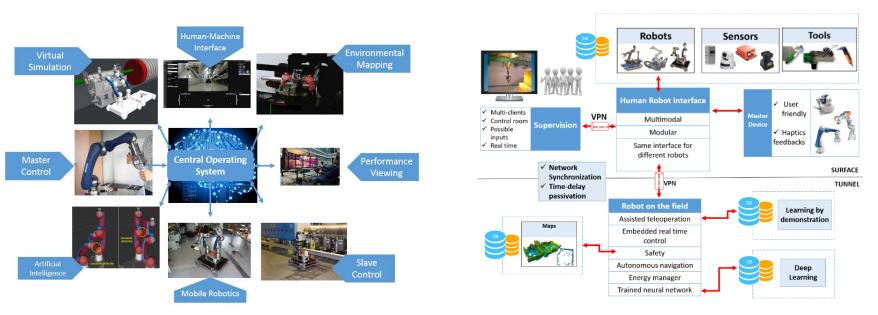
CERNbot (CERN made)



## **CERNTAURO Framework**

- In house robotic control system [7]
- > No use of commercial solutions [8]
- Operate all CERN robots
- > Sensor acquisition, fusion, measurements etc.







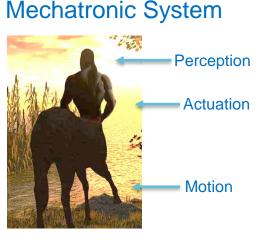
## **CERNTAURO** framework

- > New robot and robotic control developed [9]
  - ✓ Human robot interface
- > New user-friendly bilateral tele-manipulation system

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- ✓ Haptic feedback
- ✓ Assisted teleoperation
- Artificial intelligence
  - Perception and autonomy
  - Deep learning
  - > Operator and robot training system
    - ✓ Virtual and augmented reality
    - ✓ Learning by demonstration



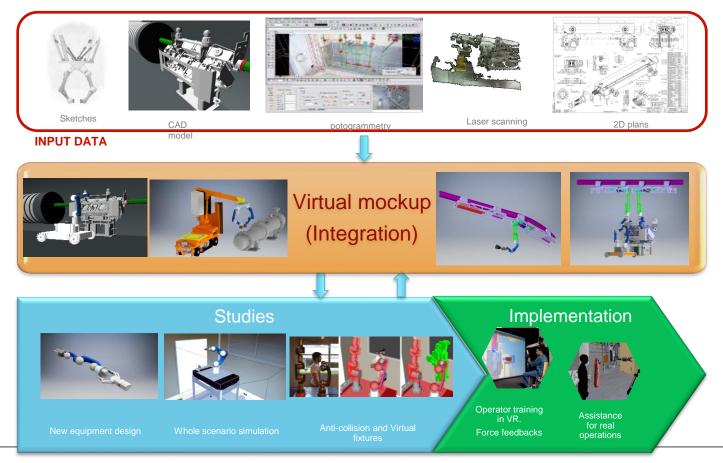








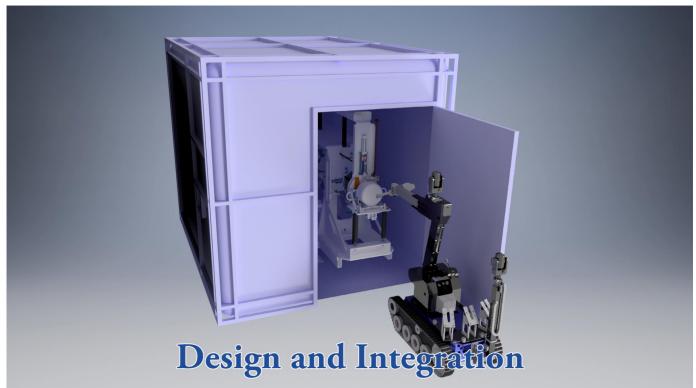
#### VERO: Virtual Environment for intelligent Robotic Operations





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### **Robotic Activities in EN-SMM**



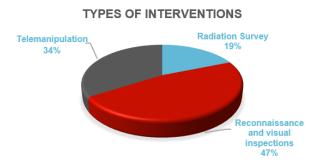


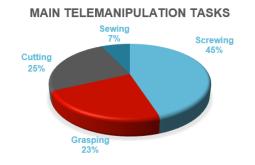
# **Robotic Support at CERN**

Nr. of Interventions in the	Nr. of tasks performed in the last 40 months	Robot operation time in	Dose Saved
last 40 months		harsh environment [h]	[mSv]
135	250	~ 300	~ 120*

\* Calculated on human intervention time

60 % of the interventions were unforeseen and done with very short preparation time





### Best practice for equipment design and intervention



### Importance of the design phase, procedures and tools

- Intervention procedures and tools are important as the robot/device that does the remote intervention
  - ✓ HL-LHC WG, ITHACA InTerventions in Highly ACtivated Areas in HL-LHC



- Guidelines for equipment design and maintenance best practice to reduce personnel radiation exposure.
- Taking advantages of robots operational experience for new equipment design (TIDVG, BDF target, AD target, TAXS, TAXN etc. )





#### EDMS: CERN-0000151406

# ITHACA

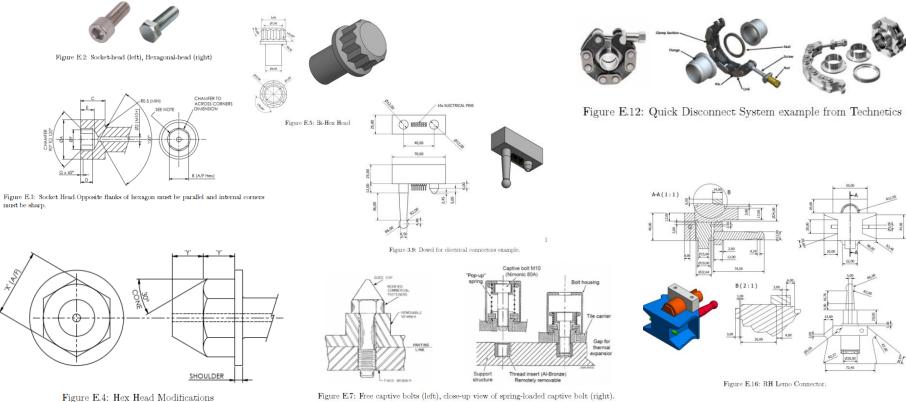


Figure E.7: Free captive bolts (left), close-up view of spring-loaded captive bolt (right).



### Importance of the design phase, procedures and tools

Designing machines that can be maintained by robots using appropriate and easily accessible interfaces will increase the availability and decrease human exposure to hazards















Easier remote or hands-on manipulation than chain-type connection



# **Robotic Support at CERN**





# Robotic support in EN-SMM

### > 27 intervention mock-ups developed

- ✓ 12 "real" and 15 "virtual"
- Mockups are extremely useful to develop procedures, tooling, failure mode and recovery scenarios, safety and for operators training
- More than 50 tools + several procedures and recovery scenarios developed













### Robots at CERN: TIM

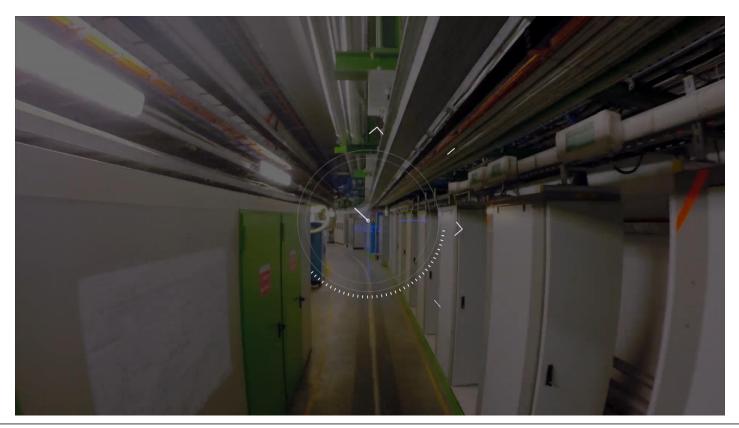
Built at CERN, used for inspection, radiation mapping of the LHC and survey. Operational Experience and technology could be useful for general tunnels inspections [10]







### Robots at CERN: TIM

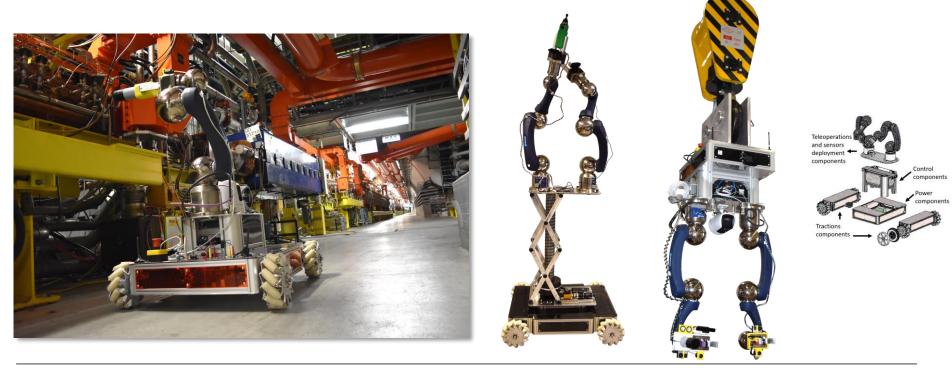




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### Robots at CERN: CERNbot

Built at CERN, used for inspection, environmental measurements including radiation, teleoperation and in-situ maintenance [11]





### Robots at CERN: CERNbot





### Robots at CERN: Tele-operation and in-situ maintenance

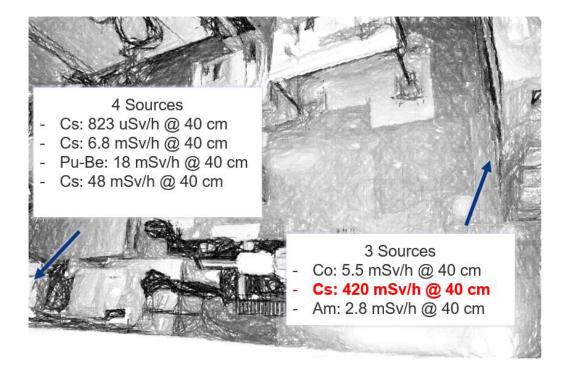
#### Radioactive sources handling





### Robots at CERN: Tele-operation and in-situ maintenance

#### Radioactive sources handling





#### Robots at CERN: Tele-operation and in-situ maintenance

#### Radioactive sources handling





#### Robots at CERN: Tele-operation and in-situ maintenance

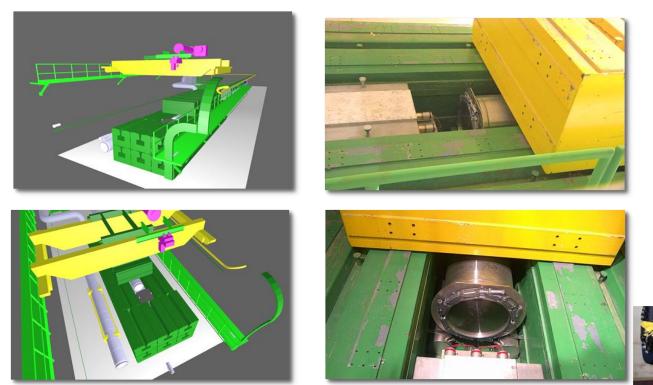
#### Radioactive sources handling





#### LHC TDE inspection

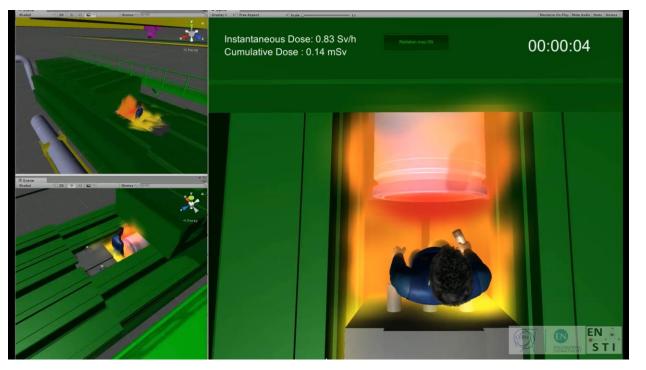
#### CERNbot v1.0 core

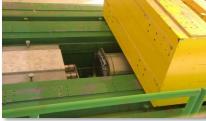






#### LHC TDE inspection









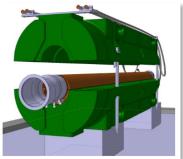


#### > SPS TIDVG de-installation and inspection on surface

✓ Environment preparation, teleoperation (disconnections), core visual inspection, vacuum leak detection









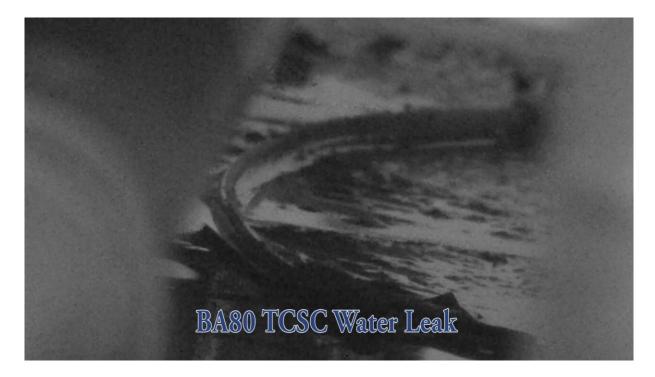
#### > SPS TIDVG de-installation and inspection on surface

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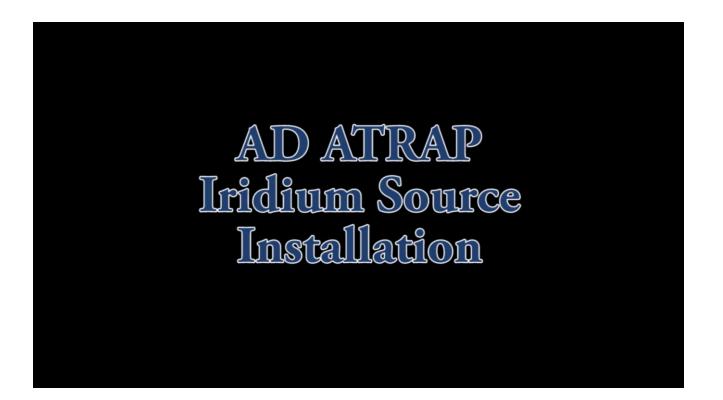




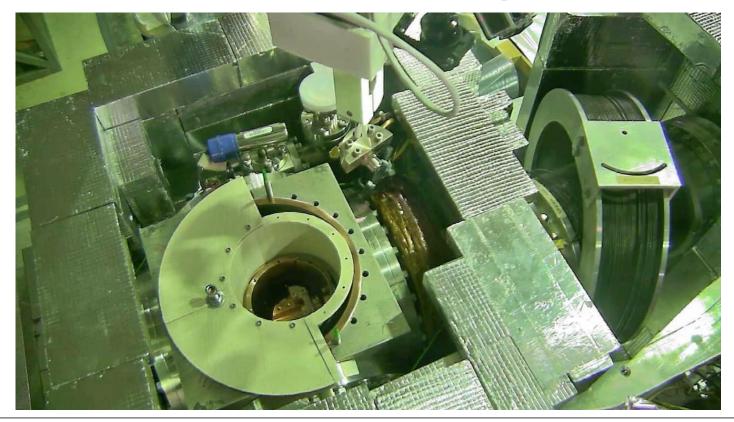
#### > Water leak fix





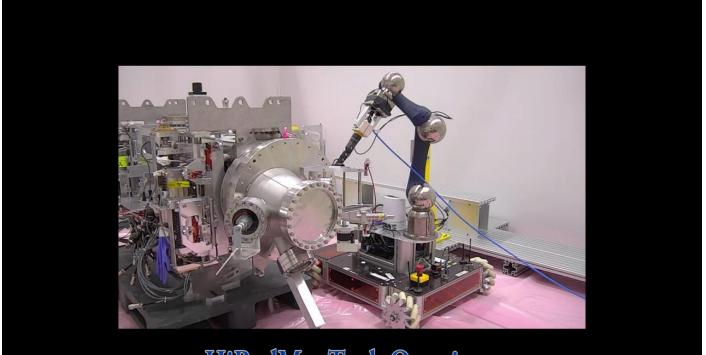








#### **Intervention Examples: HIRADMAT**

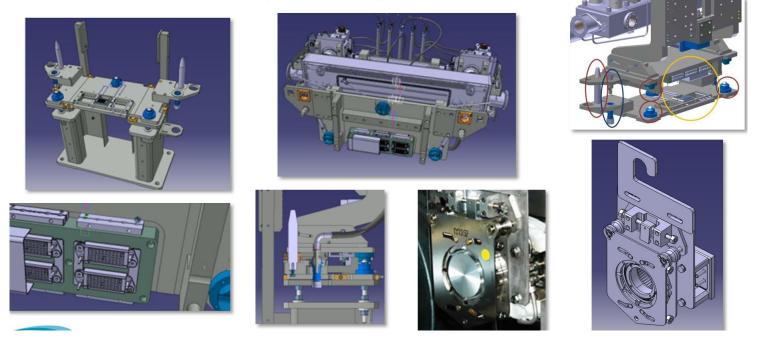


HiRadMat Tank Opening



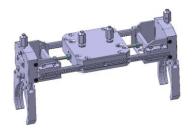
## Existing remote handling compatible solutions (EN-STI)

LHC Collimators: plug and play system





# VMTIA maintenance of the LHC Collimators









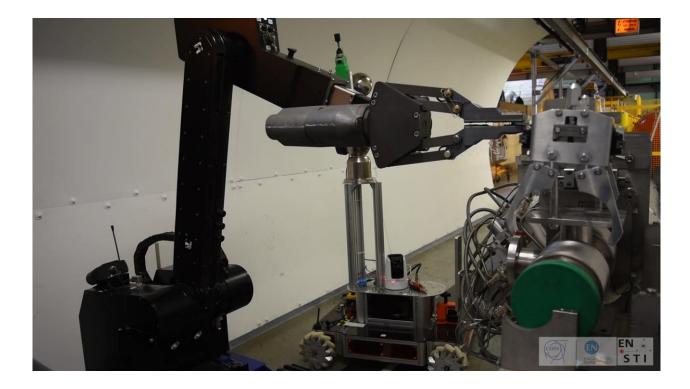






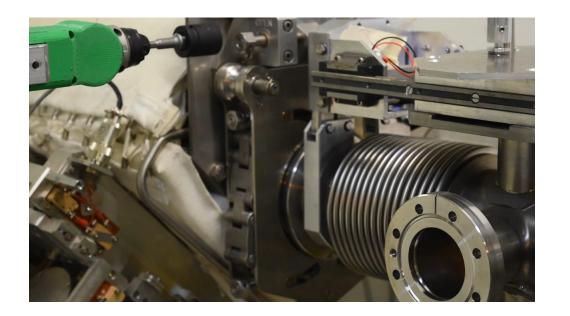


# VMTIA maintenance of the LHC Collimators

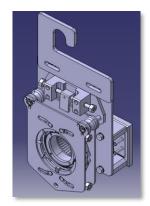




## Opening of the quick vacuum flange using robots









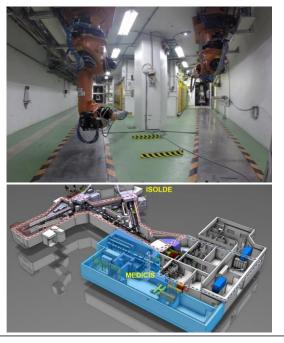


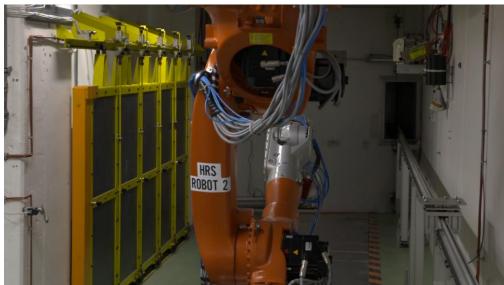
### Robots at CERN: Industrial robots

#### Industrial robots @ ISOLDE and MEDICIS

✓ Kuka Manipulators for repetitive pre-programmed tasks









#### Robots at CERN: repetitive tasks

Robotic sample exchanger for automatic spectroscopy of radioactive samples





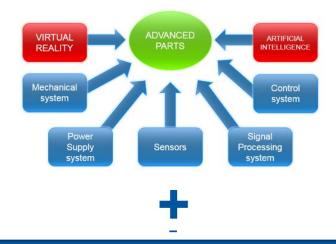
### Contents

- Introduction to Robotics
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# **Research and Developments**

#### > OUR R&D covers all the fundamental blocks of a robotic systems



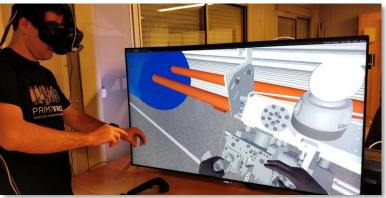
#### OPERATION IN UNSTRUCTURED AND HARSH ENVIRONMENT

Development of novel procedures and recovery scenarios setting the bases for a remote handling code of practice in hazardous environments



- > Virtual and augmented reality in EN-SMM needed for:
  - Simulation of robotic interventions
    - ✓ Integration of robots in the environment and choice of robots
    - ✓ Intervention procedures
    - $\checkmark\,$  Tools design and test
    - ✓ Machines risk assessment
    - ✓ Robots training by demonstration
    - ✓ Operators training
    - ✓ Risk analysis
    - ✓ Recovery procedures
- Simulation of human intervention (ITHACA HL-LHC Working group)
  - ✓ Human intervention procedures
  - ✓ Live radiation levels and cumulated dose while training in VR (Augmented reality in virtual reality)
  - ✓ Intervention training
  - ✓ Risk analysis

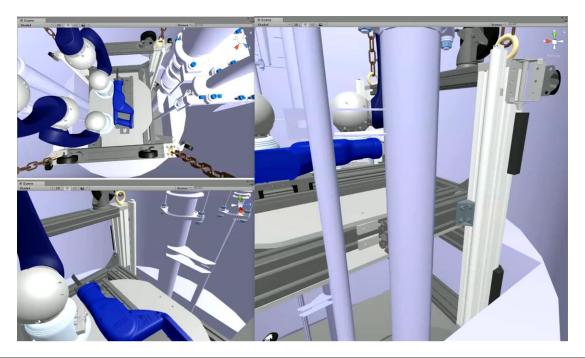






### **Robotic Intervention Simulation**

- Robots integration and task simulation
  - ✓ Procedures, tools design and recovery scenarios





#### **Steering New Machines Design**

#### >For example, design of the new LHC Collimators motor screw cap

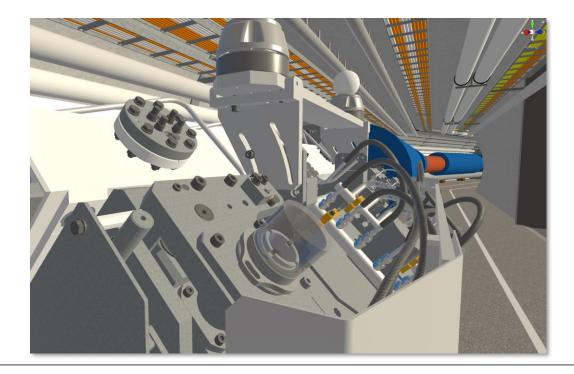
✓ Simulation in VR to check hands on handling and "robot friendliness"

#### **Current solution**



New solution







#### **Steering New Machines Design**

#### >For example, design of the new LHC Collimators motor screw cap

✓ Simulation in VR to check hands on handling and "robot friendliness"

#### **Current solution**



New solution





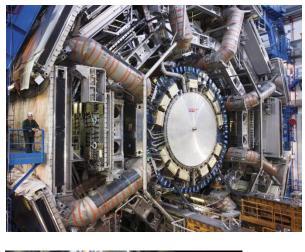


#### Train personnel in emergency situation





#### ATLAS



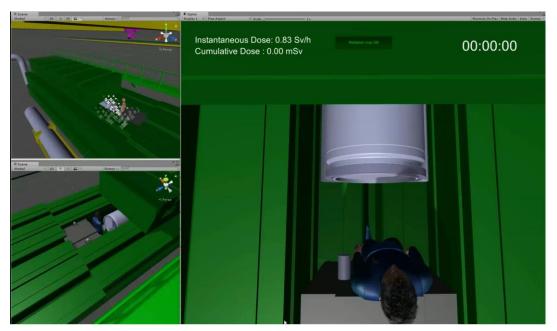


# Virtual Reality





# For personnel training and risk assessment FLUKA/radiation-exposure simulations in VR



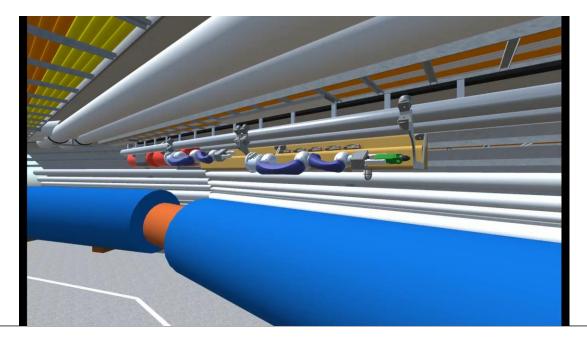


For Integration, procedures, operator training and operator assistance during teleoperations, in-situ maintenance



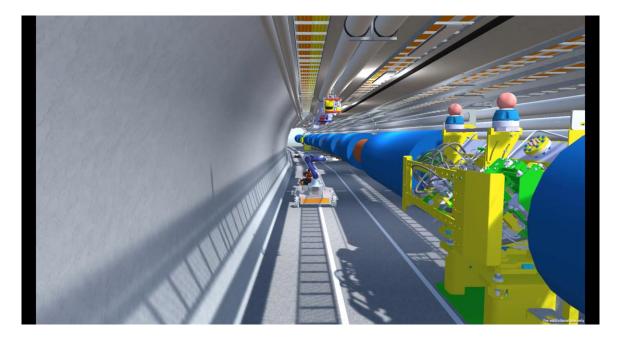


For Integration, procedures, operator training and operator assistance during teleoperations, in-situ maintenance





- Multiple autonomous robot collaborations
  - ✓ Several viewing angles for supervision and teleoperation are essentials



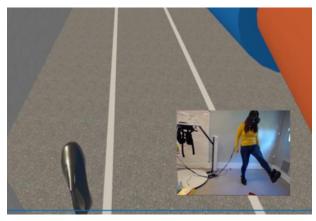


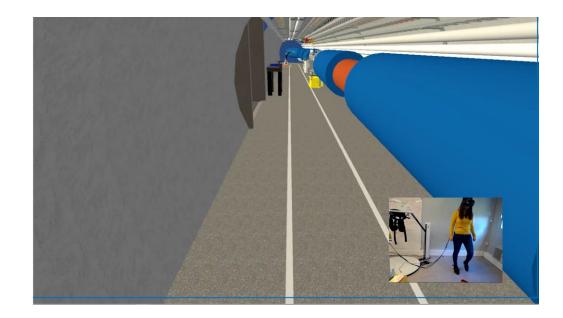
## **VERO framework**

Virtual Environment for intelligent Robotic Operations

#### Walking module via step tracking

#### Improving the realism





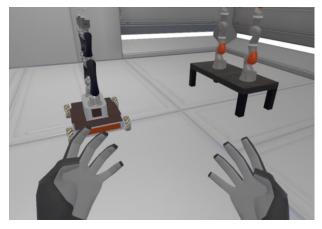


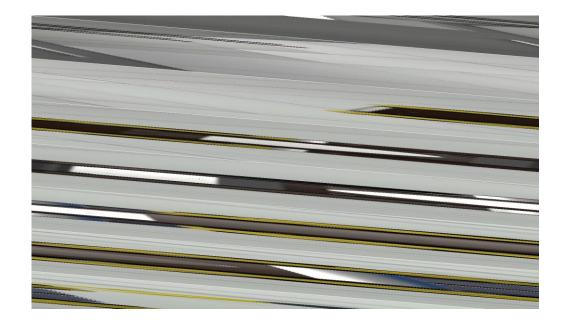
# **VERO framework**

Virtual Environment for intelligent Robotic Operations

#### Hand tracking module

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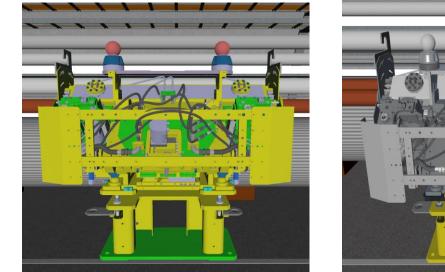






# Texture in VR

- Very important to guarantee transparency
- > We can import in VR textures of objects from 2D pictures
- Experience in operation with VR and publication has shown that without real texture the gaming effect will be too strong!

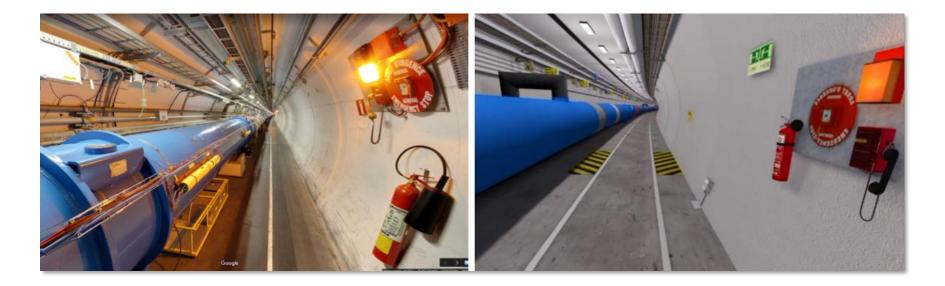


Collimator before and after texturing



### Texturing in VR

- Strong increase of realism
  - ✓ Helps to go out from the "gaming" effect
  - ✓ Decrease the fatigue and stress while using VR





# Augmented Reality for Live Monitoring and Intervention Team Support



Environmental measurements comes into augmented reality showed on tablet or glasses for example



# Principle adaptable to any robot



# **Master-Slave Haptic-Based Teleoperations**

- Industrial robotic systems in most of the cases come with a complex master device to operate the robot
  - Needs of costly framework to have trained operators







# **Master-Slave Haptic-Based Teleoperations**

- In house user friendly and portable telemanipulation system to allow equipment owners and/or expert technicians to use robot in a "transparent way"
  - ✓ No need of expert robotic operators





## Why we need haptics?



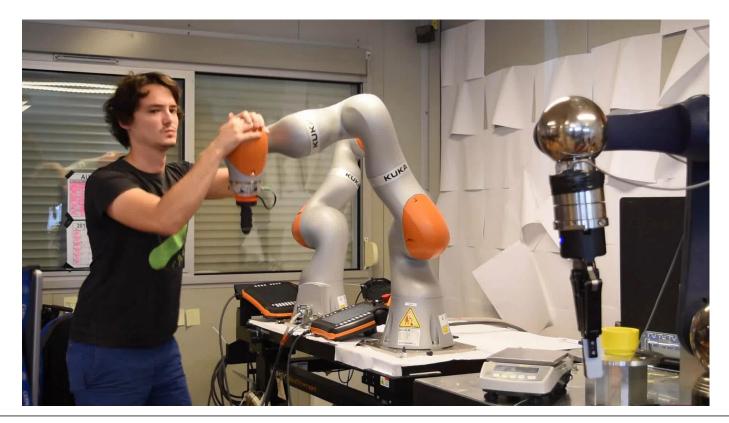
Unknown and unstructured environment: How much does it weigh? What happens if I touch it? Does it break easily? Haptics lets you understand your effect on the environment

How strong is the robot arm? How fast can it move? How much impulse does it have? Haptics lets you understand the way the robot moves



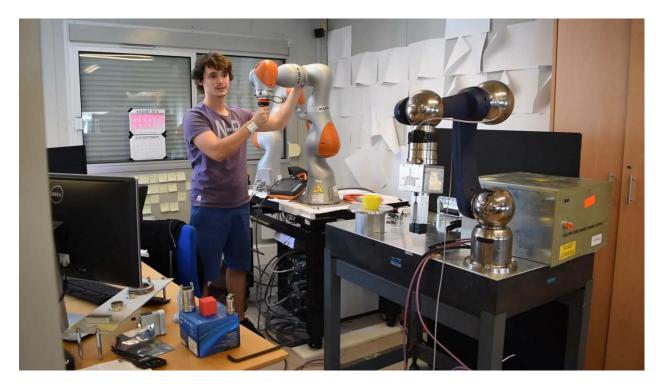


## **Impedance-Mode Control**





## **Master-Slave Haptic-Based Teleoperations**



\*more on this topic in [7] [26]



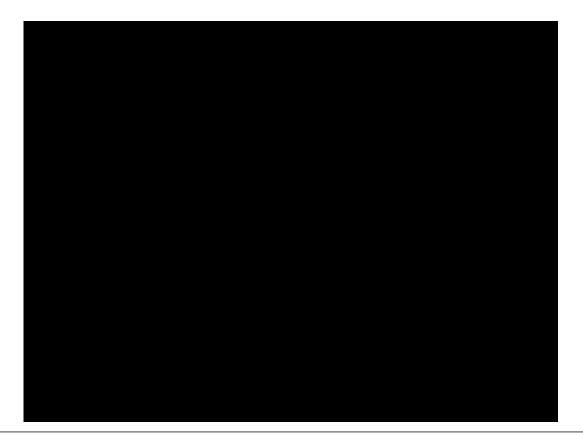
### **User-friendly telemanipulation and advanced controls**

#### Adaptive force feedback





### Depth estimation using monocular cameras





### **R&D for Exoskeletons**

"Exoskeletons are wearable devices that work in tandem with the user. Exoskeletons are worn on the user's body and act as amplifiers that augment, reinforce or restore human movements"





## **R&D for Exoskeletons**

Objectives of the Project (ExoFlex - DPI2015-68842-R)

- > Developing a soft exoskeleton (exosuit) to assist the upper limbs
  - ✓ Elbow
  - ✓ Shoulder
- Reduce the metabolic rate of the user
- Lightweight
- Cable-driven









## Contents

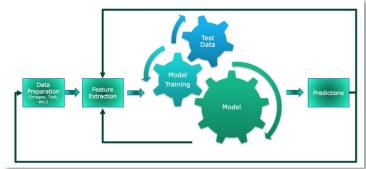
- Introduction to Robotics
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## **Machine learning**

- Allows software to learn from training data in order to learn statistical models of real world problems
- Machine learning is not a new technology (first prototypes of statistical learning from early 1970s)
- Latest advances in computing power and hardware development allow practical execution of machine learning algorithms
- Enormous effort in software and hardware development in place by biggest companies (e.g. Intel, Google, Apple, Nvidia) makes the research field extremely dynamic
- Wide variety of Open Source library for fast prototyping and development





#### A machine learning typical pipeline [38]

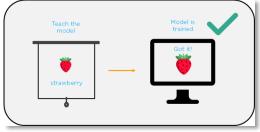


Application of machine learning to real life scenarios



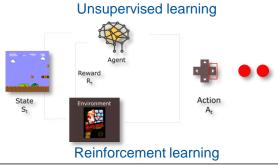
## **Machine learning categories**

- Three main categories [38]:
  - ✓ Supervised
  - ✓ Unsupervised
  - ✓ Reinforcement
- Supervised learning learns from a prepared set of labeled data
  - The algorithm will be able to observe a new, neverbefore-seen value and predict its label
- Unsupervised learning learns from random data using tools to understand the properties of this data
  - The algorithm will be able to group, cluster, organize data
- Reinforcement learning learns from its own mistakes
  - It uses a "satisfaction" function to distinguish between a good and a bad behavior
  - $\checkmark$  The algorithm will be able to choose and perform actions



Supervised learning







## **Machine learning in robotics #1**

- Great advances in robot vision thanks to supervised deep learning techniques
  - Accuracy in object tracking (Fast-RCNN, Mask-RCNN)
  - Object grasping points calculation
- Control of closed chains kinematic robots
  - Still an open issue, Long short-term memory (LSTM) networks for system dynamic learning
- Advances in situation awareness for autonomous behaviors
  - Possibility of learning to predict external changes in the environment
- Human-Robot collaboration
  - Advances in speech recognition, gesture recognition, human action prediction



Grasping points for everyday objects [39]



Saliency detection (center of attention) in self-driving cars for situational awareness [40]



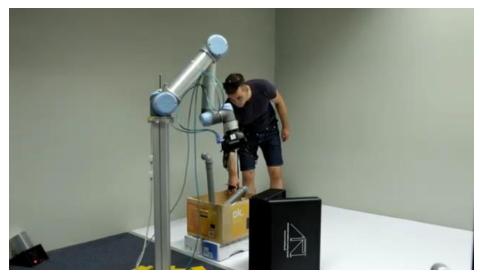
Human Robot collaboration for mechanical assembly



### **Machine learning in robotics #2**

#### Robot still do not appear fast enough

- Slow in decision making
- Difficult to adapt to real world scenarios



Robot still don't appear fast enough [41]



## **Machine learning in Robotics #3**

Robotics community is investing strongly in machine learning adapted to social robotics





## **Object detection and recognition for Teleoperation #2**

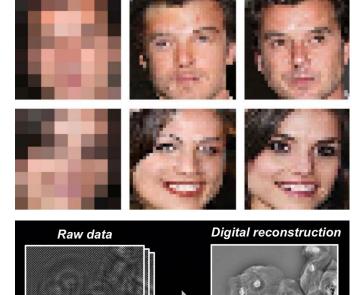
- Machine learning (Faster-RCNN) is used to assist online grasping tasks in teleoperation
  - ✓ Visual servo control endorsed with AI [57]
- Object detection embedded in CERN Human-Robot Interface to process live images endorsed with super resolution techniques [44]

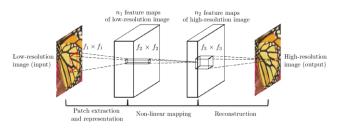


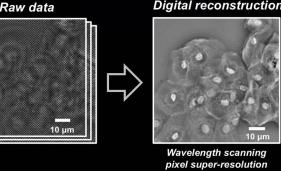


## Super resolution for visual online monitoring #1

- Generates higher resolution less noisy images from small resolution compressed images
- > Two categories:
  - Single image super-resolution [45]
  - Multiple image super-resolution [56]
- State-of-the-art neural networks produce great results but are not suitable for realtime display



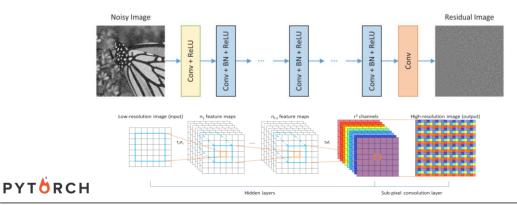


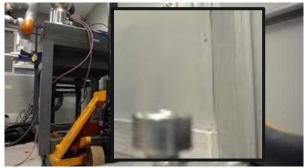




## Super resolution for visual online monitoring #2

- We merged 2 neural networks : compression noise reduction and resolution enhancement [47]
- Reduce 4G bandwidth consumption for transmitting images
- Generates no lag thanks to real-time capabilities
- Little defects in some images are not critical as images are displayed to the operator at 15 fps
- Multiscale super resolution available (2x, 4x, 8x etc.)





50% jpeg compression; 14 kb



4X resolution enhancement + noise reduction; 282 kb; computation time 4 ms



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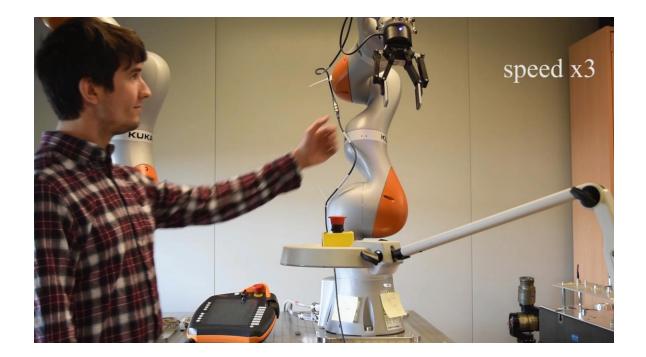
## **Learning by Demonstration**

- Robots can learn complex tasks
- Learning Benefits
  - Robot fast adaptation to new tasks and the environment
  - ✓ Fully autonomous task implementation





# Learning by demonstration: fusing Fast-RCNN [48] and DMP for dynamic environment

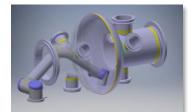






Picture of a cavity

### HL-LHC RF cavities: proof of concept for internal welding polishing using a robotic arm (learning by demonstration techniques)



Preliminary integration



Preliminary results of a polish on a welded joint. Before polishing (left) and after polishing (right)





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Proof of concept for laser welding for HL-LHC triplets beam screen using a robotic arm (learning by demonstration techniques)



Learning by demonstration





Execution of the welding

Very promising preliminary results



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### TIM Survey Wagon alignment to fiducials (Fast-RCNN)





## Autonomous tests of LHC Collimators switches (Fast R-CNN + learning by demonstration)

- Deep learning for object and pose recognition
- Machine learning for autonomous operations
- Safety using virtual fixtures to avoid collisions





LHC Collimators

Internal view of the LHC Collimators





LHC Collimators position switches plate



Close view of the LHC Collimators position switches

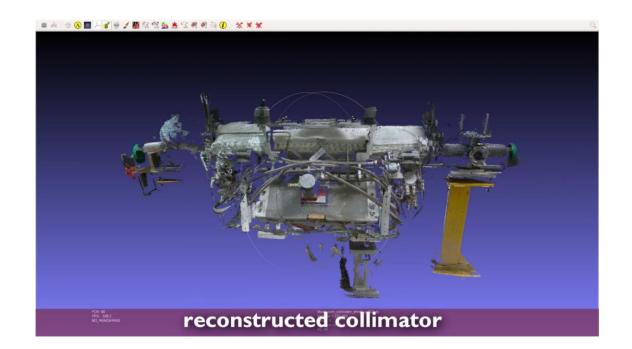


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## Autonomous tests of LHC Collimators switches (Fast R-CNN + learning by demonstration)

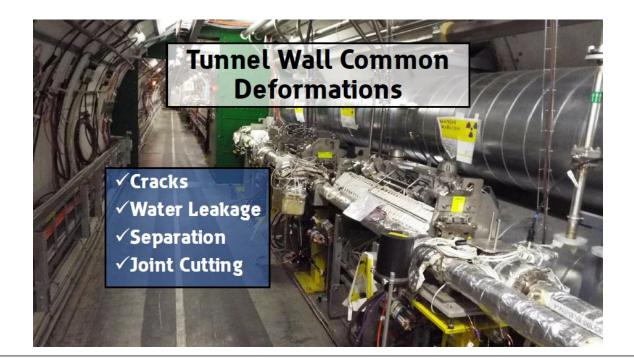
- Deep learning for object and pose recognition
- Machine learning for autonomous operations
- Safety using virtual fixtures to avoid collisions







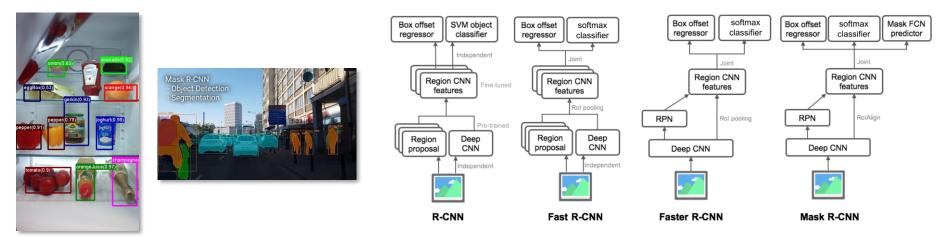
## Digital Image Processing and Photogrammetry for Tunnel Structure monitoring





## **Tunnel structure monitoring with defects detection**

- Faster-RCNN provides simple bounding boxes around the recognized object
- Complex applications require more detailed detection
- > Mask-RCNN [51] provide accurate segmentation around the recognized object



Examples of object recognition using machine learning

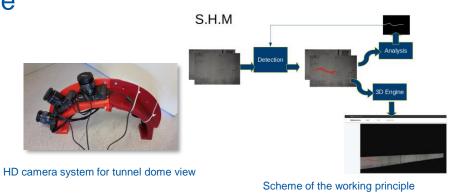


## **Online Tunnel Structure Monitoring**

- Detects defects (cracks, water leaks, changes [51-52]) using a Mask-RCNN network.
- High-definition picture collection using TIM and CERNBot
- 3D reconstruction of wall using Structure from Motion techniques to compare time evolution of defects (available on web browser or virtual reality headset)
- Complete application under commissioning, from data collection to data analysis



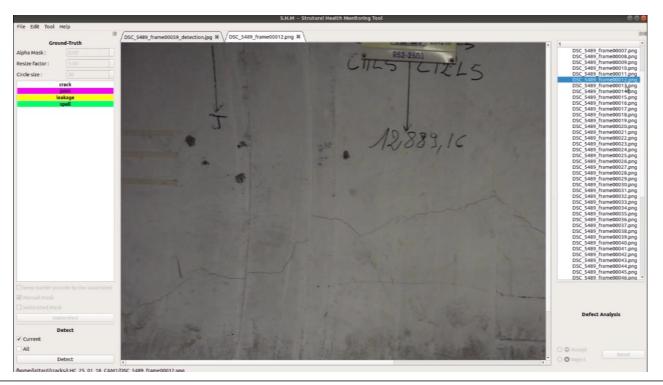
HD cameras mounted on TIM and CERNbot





## **Tunnel Structure Monitoring**

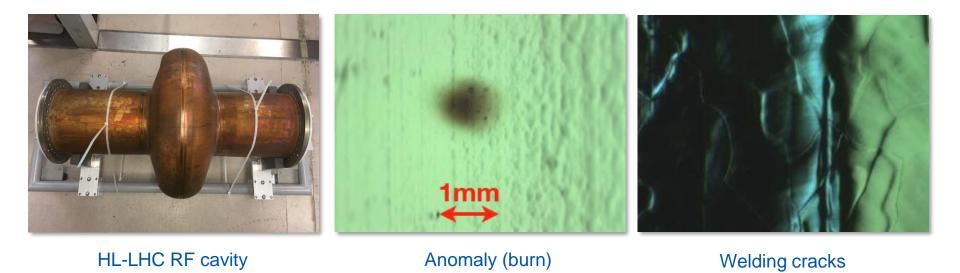
### Continuous training by live correction improves results as the dataset grows





## Visual based RF cavities quality control

Same technique used for defect detection is applied to surface quality control of the HL-LHC RF cavities

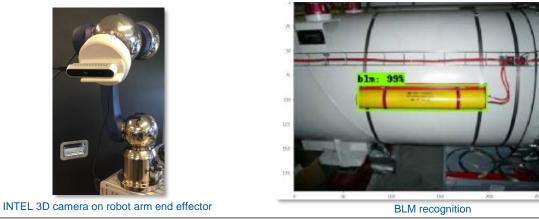


Curtesy of A. Macpherson



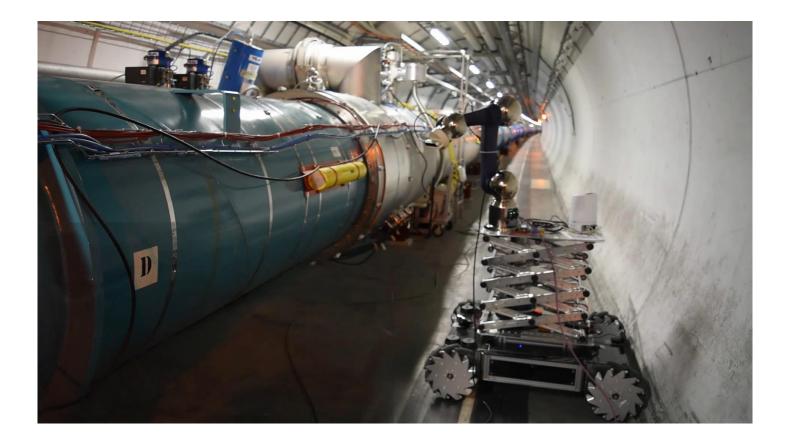
### Object Detection and Pose Estimation for Measurements and Calibrations Sensors Approach

- Faster-RCNN network for online 2D Beam Loss Monitors (BLM) localization [49]
- Multiple RGB-D cameras used for 3D reconstruction of the environment
- Bounding boxes generated by Faster-RCNN on each camera allow triangulation of the bounding box in the space
- ICP algorithm [50] on the depth sensor allows accurate 3D localization
- SD pose will be used by the robotic arm path planner to calculate a safe approach to the BLM in the reconstructed environment





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## **People recognition and vital monitoring**

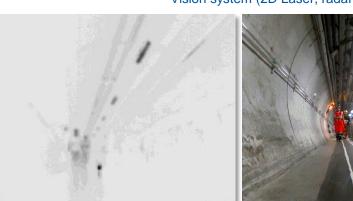
- Machine learning techniques enhance people detection and vital signals monitoring at distance
- People search and rescue is of primary interest in disaster scenarios
- People monitoring during rehabilitation



Vision system (2D Laser, radar, thermal and 2D-3D camera)



Online respiration monitoring





Online people recognition and tracking

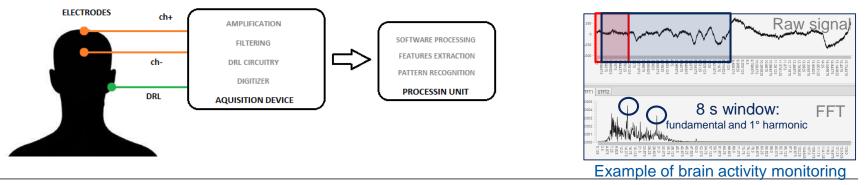


## **Brain-Robot Interface for robot arm control**

- Online analysis of brain signal
- Augmented reality glasses used for commands display
- Eyes focus point detected by CNN processing Steady State Visual Evoked Potentials (SSVEP) which are synchronous responses produced in the visual cortex area when observing flickering stimuli

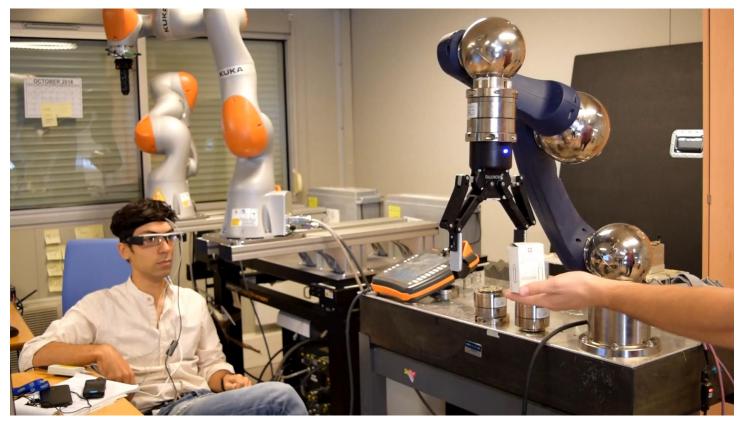


Hardware used for the brain monitoring





### **Brain-Robot Interface for robot arm control**





## Impact

#### Industry

- Problems to solve (a "solution deficit")
- Technology and experience
- A need for qualified staff
- Limited budgets

#### Universities

- A "problem deficit"
- Research expertise
- Training skills
- Well-qualified students looking for jobs



## Impact

#### Robots for search and rescue

- Knowing the environment before the fire brigade intervention
- ✓ Find possible entrance in catastrophic zone
- > Inspection of buildings, pipes etc.

Logistics

▶ ...

- Staff localization in harsh environment
- Nuclear plants decommissioning











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## Knowledge Transfer

## > Knowledge transfer with Ross Robotics

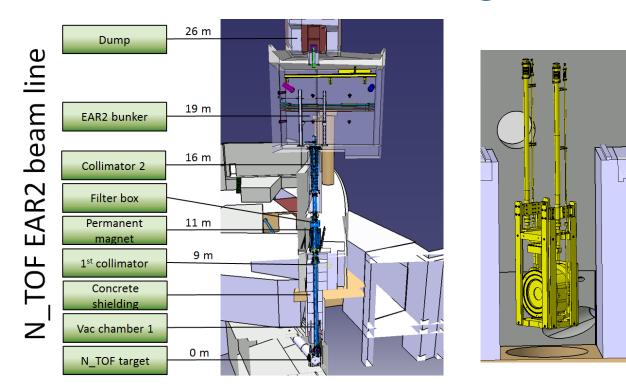
 ✓ KT on robotic controls, autonomous navigation, perception and teleoperation







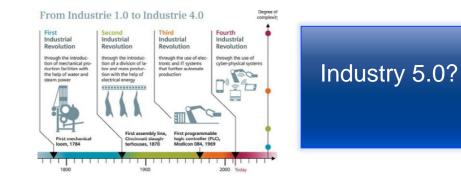
## Main Challenge for 2019



+ More than 20 robotic interventions planned



## Future technologies?







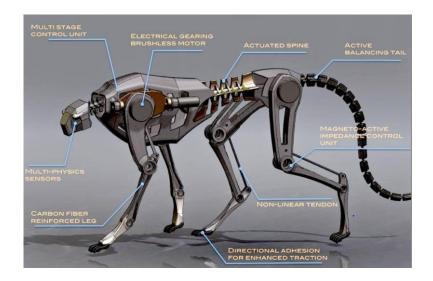




## Future robot?

### Inspired by nature













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## Lesson Learnt an Conclusions

- Designing machines that can be maintained remotely using appropriate and easily accessible interfaces will drastically increase the availability and decrease human exposure to hazards
- Intervention procedures and tools are important as the robot/device that does the remote intervention
- R&D and continuous developments models are needed because ready-to-use robotic solutions that can fulfill CERN needs for remote inspection and userfriendly teleoperation do not exist
- EN-SMM has acquired knowledge and expertise to provide robotic support and robotic-friendly design guidelines to other CERN groups according to the resources available
- External strategic collaborations with research centres and universities are crucial to take advantage of the cutting edge technology and to find the right people for CERN





#### Robots and robotic instrumentation need a crew to use them and maintain and experts in-house to be effective



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## Thank you for your attention

