

WORKSHOP:

# Applied AI in Agile Production, Logistics and Lab Automation



ERF2022  
ROTTERDAM  
28-30 JUNE

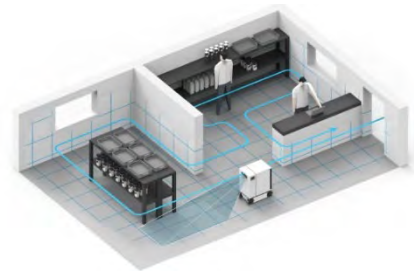
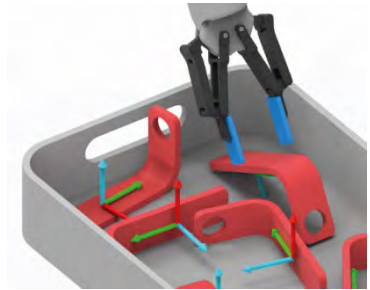
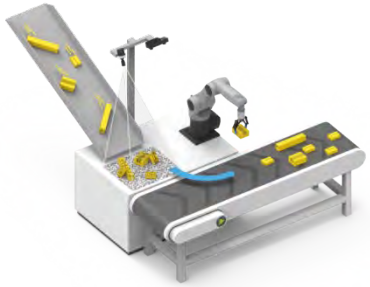


## Agenda

### APPLIED AI IN AGILE PRODUCTION, LOGISTICS AND LAB AUTOMATION

- 16:10 **Introduction and Definition of Statements/ Key Questions**  
Dr. Michael Suppa, Roboception GmbH
- 16:20 **Towards Detecting and Grasping Transparent Objects**  
Prof. Markus Vincze, TU Vienna, Austria
- 16:30 **AI Driven Vision in Logistics**  
Christian Baumgartner TGW Logistics Group, Austria
- 16:40 **Perception Challenges and Requirements in Lab Automation**  
Dr. Patrick Courtney, Tec-connection, UK
- 16:50 **Model-based Machine Learning for Pick-and-Place in Agile Production**  
Dr. Michael Suppa, Roboception GmbH, Germany
- 17:00 **Cooperating Robots and AppliedAI for Reconfigurable Manufacturing**  
Christos Gkournelos , LMS, University of Patras, Greece
- 17:10 **Interactive Session/ Round Table Discussion**
- 17:25 **Conclusion and Take Home Messages**

## Perception is the Key Technology for flexible Automation



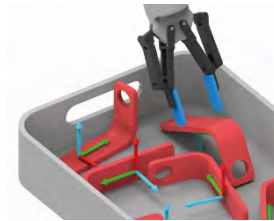
- In flexible automation, robots must be able to reliably detect and locate work pieces and human collaborators und varying illumination, work pieces type and locations
- In **logistics**, manual work is still pre-dominant due to the complexity of tasks and the variation of objects.
- In **industrial automation**, accurate placement is usually the key challenge
- In **lab automation**, usually fragile and transparent objects must be handled in the processes including human interaction
- Individual engineering of solutions is costly and does not scale

## How to Scale Vision for Grasping in Robotics

### FLEXIBILITY IS KEY

### Industrial Automation

- Classical approach to use mechanical fixtures
- Individual engineering for feeding and grasping
- Usually <100 different parts
- Model data available
- Pick-and-place



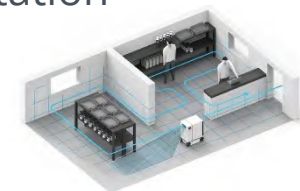
### Logistics

- High cycle time with 1.000 picks/h
- Usually >1.000 parts
- Objects unknown
- Pick-and-drop



### Lab Automation

- Traceability of process and documentation
- Transparent objects
- Pick-and-place



### Vision System

- Removal of fixtures for flexible cell design
- Model-driven approaches require a model but allow for time-saving off-site training
- Combination with classical methods allows for accuracy and robustness

### Vision System

- Enables application of robots in the domain
- Data-driven approaches require data, i.e. time-consuming on-site recording and training
- Introduction of model-driven approaches reduces greediness

### Vision System

- Enables application of robots in the domain
- Model-driven approaches with synthesized data for e.g. transparent objects

## Trend #1: Good Data, not Big Data

## Good Data, not Big Data

### SIMULATION REDUCES ON-SITE TRAINING EFFORT

Andrew Ng states that

*“80% of the AI developer’s time is spent on data preparation”,*

and calls for **GOOD DATA**, i.e.

*“Data that is defined consistently, covers the important cases, has timely feedback from production data, and is sized appropriately.”*

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2021/06/16/andrew-ng-launches-a-campaign-for-data-centric-ai>



DEPALLETIZING



SINGULATION



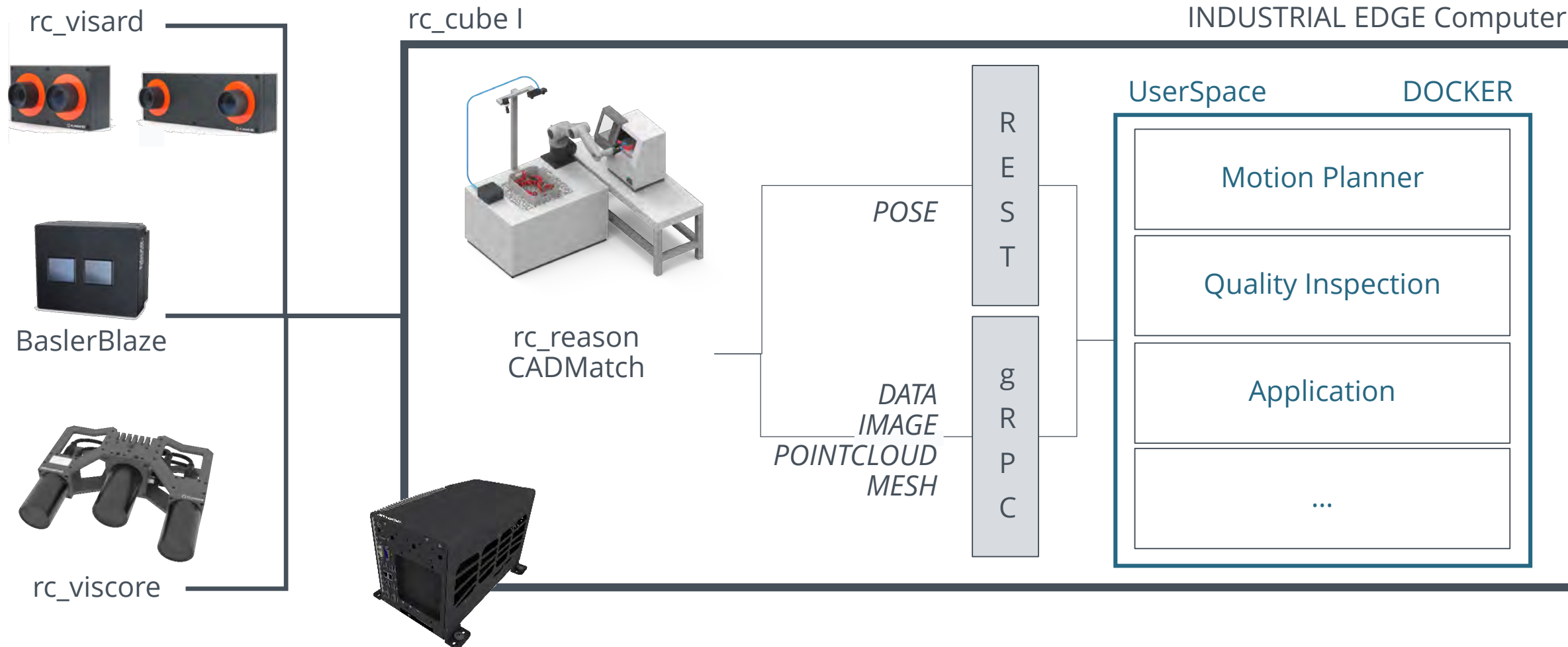
BIN PICKING



- Development of model- and data driven software products for picking known and unknown items in mixed scenarios
- Combination of model-driven simulation and automatic labeling of data with onsite data enrichment leads to the **lowest onsite training time**

## Trend #2: Plug-and-Produce

## Scalable Software Platforms





## Trend #3: Ease-of-Use

## Ease of Use for Non-Vision Expert

### INTUITIVE WEB INTERFACE ENABLES NON-EXPERT USE

Designed for quick and easy set-up and adaption, no vision expertise needed

- Highly intuitive user interface, accessible via a web browser
- Basic software and add-on modules managed via same interface
- ‚Try out‘ functionality for quick assessment of selected settings

The screenshot displays the roboception web interface for an rc\_cube system. The interface is clean and modern, with a dark sidebar on the left containing navigation options: Dashboard, Pipeline 0: rc\_visard, Camera, Depth Image, Modules, Configuration, Database, and System. The main content area is divided into two primary sections. The top section, titled 'rc\_cube System Info', includes a 'Go to System Page' button and displays three key metrics: Link Speed (1000 Mbit/s), Time Synchronization (NTP, Status: synchronized), and IP Configuration (DHCP). The bottom section, titled 'rc\_cube Camera Pipelines', features a 'Configure Pipelines' button and shows details for pipeline '0: rc\_visard (160m)'. This pipeline's status is shown as '25.0 Hz current' and '25.0 Hz desired' for the Frame Rate, and '1000 Mbit/s' for the Link Speed. A 'Collapse Sidebar' button is located at the bottom left of the sidebar.

<https://youtu.be/W7JLaltGI5Q>



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN  
Vienna | Austria



AUTOMATION & CONTROL INSTITUTE  
INSTITUT FÜR AUTOMATISIERUNGS-  
& REGELUNGSTECHNIK

# Towards Detecting and Grasping Transparent Objects

*Markus Vincze*

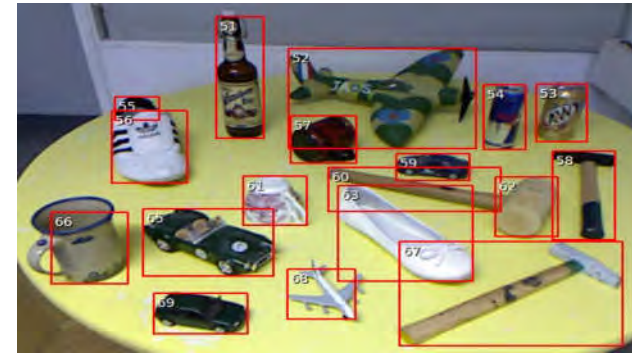
TU Wien, Automation and Control Institute

*[vincze@acin.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:vincze@acin.tuwien.ac.at)*

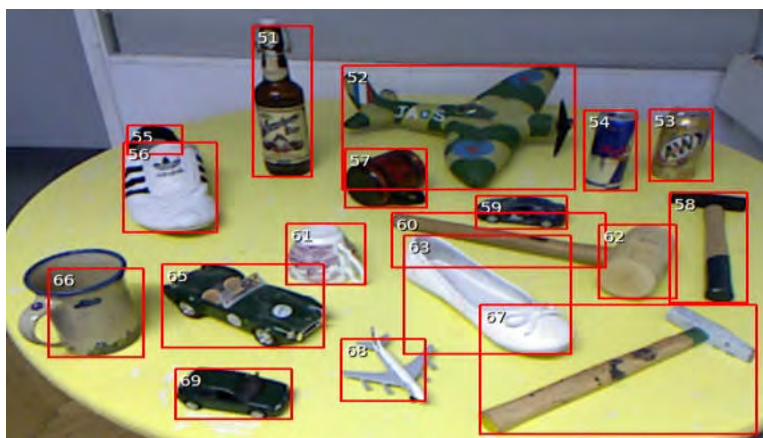
# V4R – Vision for Robotics

*„We make robots see“*

- Objects X
  - Modelling
  - Recognition
  - Classification
  - Function
  - Manipulation
- RGB-D images



# Transparent Objects



# Verification of Object Pose

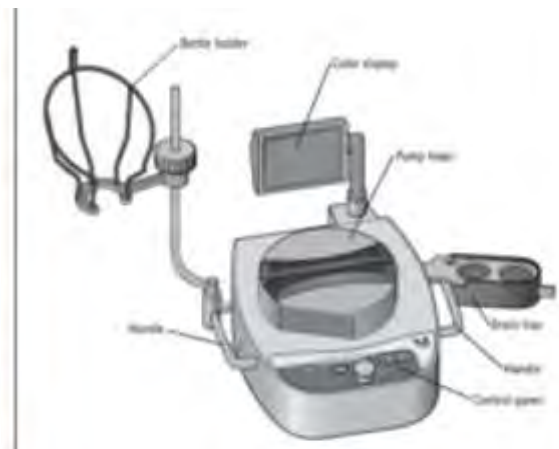
**TRACEBOT** H2020 Project

Traceable Robotic Handling of Sterile Medical Products

- Verification of every assembly step and creation of an Audit trail
- Recognition of transparent and small parts



Parts of sampling kit



Part of pump tool

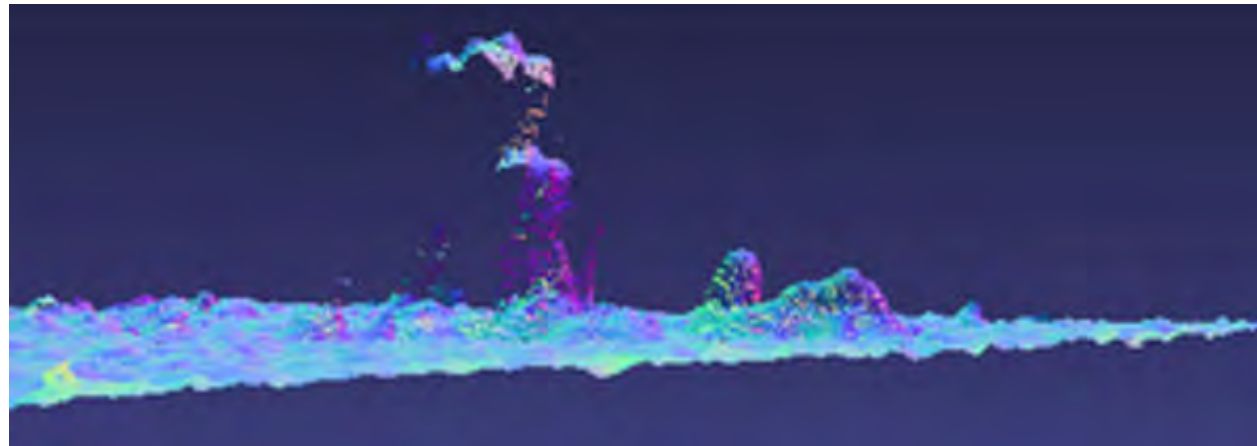


i) Fit canisters to drip tray

Partner:  
Tecnalia,  
invite,  
CEA,  
UoB,  
astech,  
Biologo

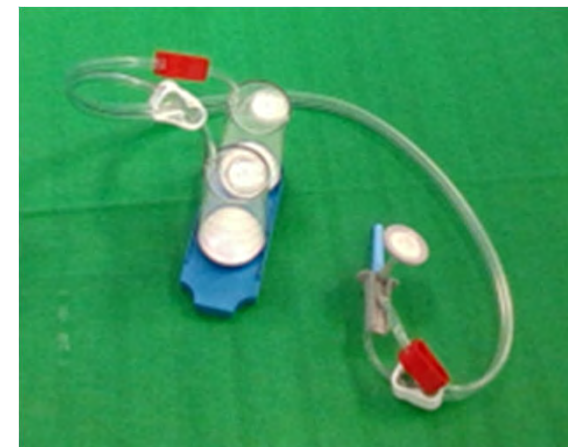
# Transparency: Challenges

- Missing depth data
- All visible in RGB data



## Approach

- Tools for creating data
- Modelling/rendering transparent objects
- Object pose estimation and verification
- Integration on robot for object grasping



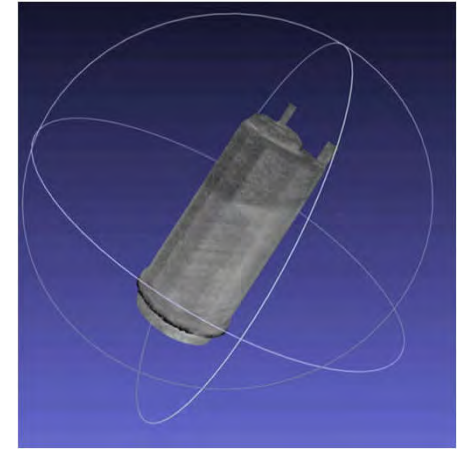
# Creating a Dataset



Recording sequence



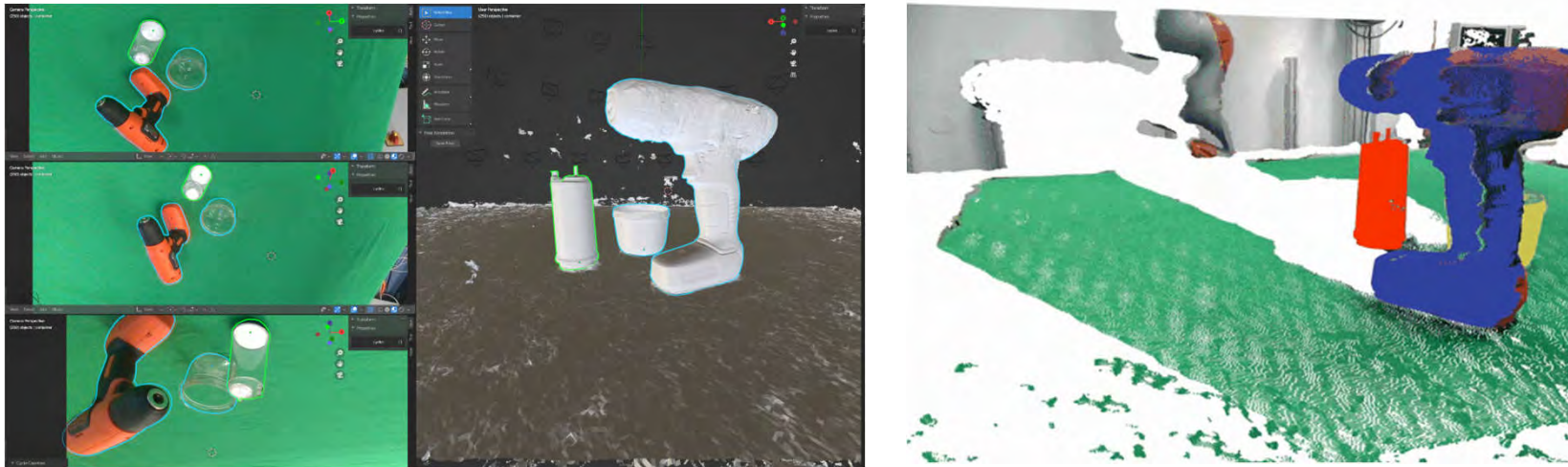
3D model from coated transparent objects



- KUKA arm, RealSense D415, D435, automatic motion planning for recording tabletop scenes
- Accurate models from scans using PHOTONEO sensor
- Scan with up to 104 views per scene



# EasyLabel – Annotation Tool



Pose annotation of tabletop scene

- Tool to import multiple scenes (camera poses, images, object models)
- Guide using depth reconstruction, export object pose annotations
- Allows to place models with poor depth data (transparent objects)

# Annotation Examples

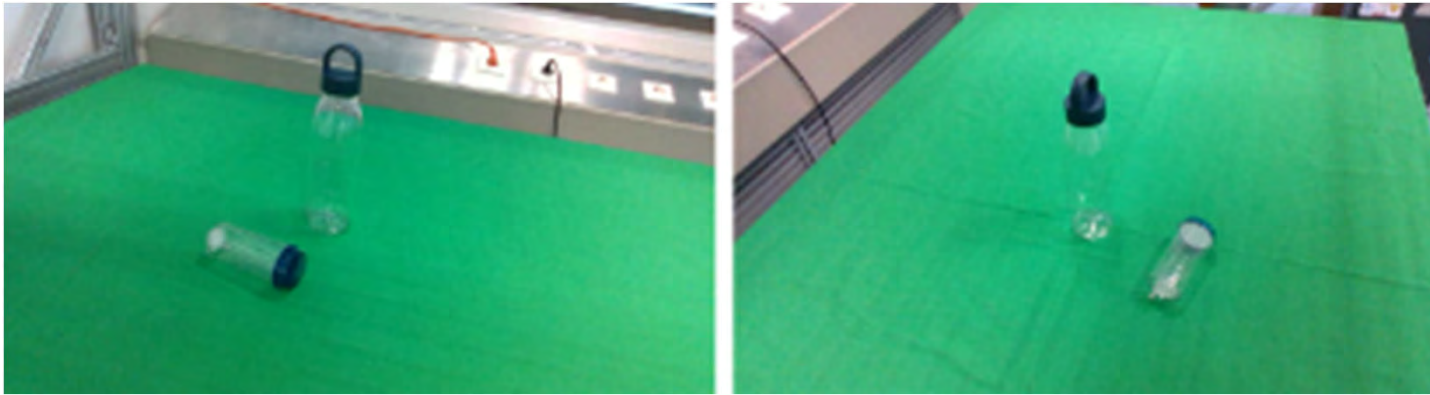


# The TraceBot Dataset



- Camera: D435 RealSense. 64 views per scene from upper hemisphere, 60 to 100 cm standoff
- Annotation: one view → transferred to all other views

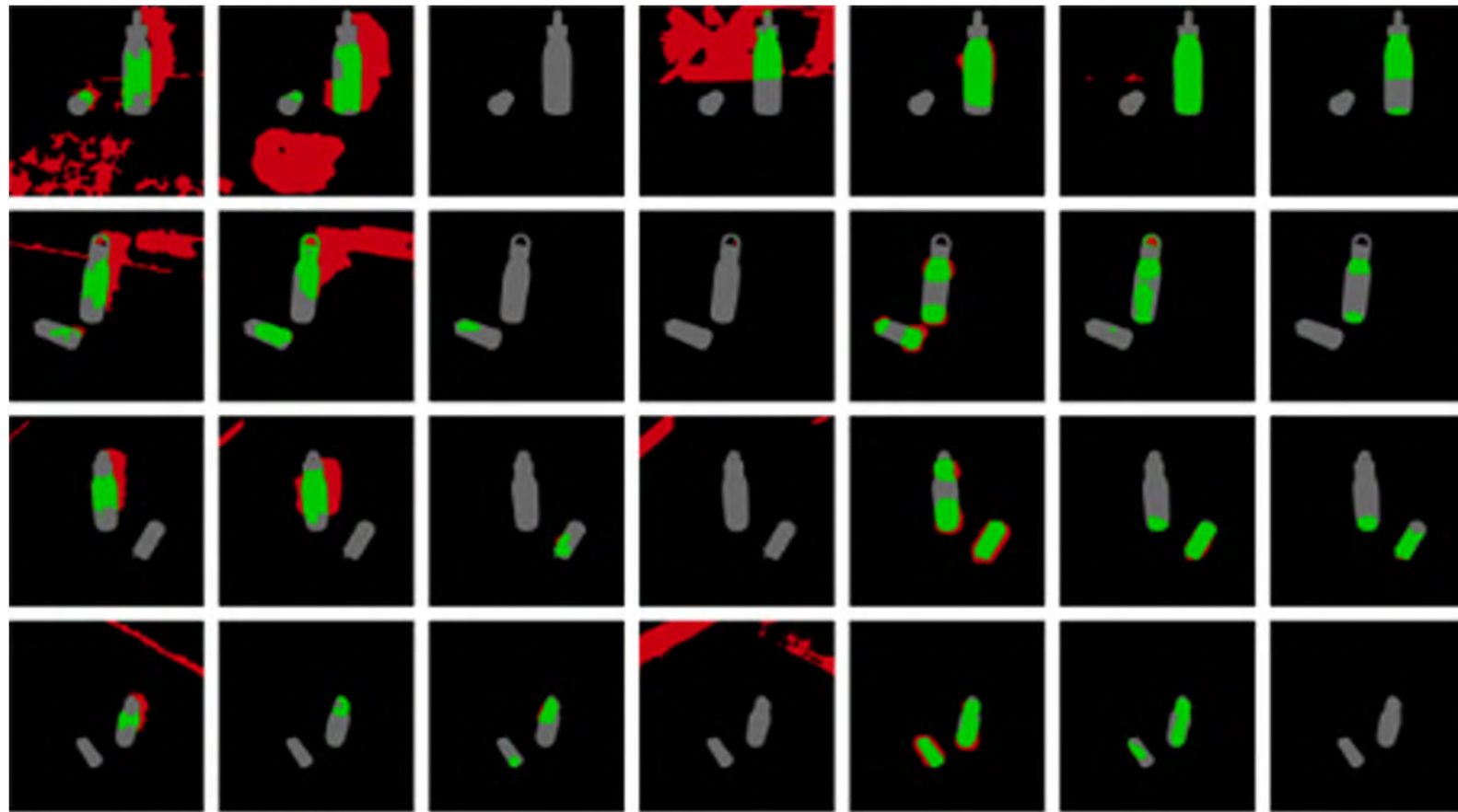
# Evaluation on TraceBot Dataset



Results for object detection

Method	Recall [%]	Precision [%]	F1 [%]	IoU [%]
Invalid Depth (baseline)	43.29	27.62	30.77	19.92
Depth+GrabCut [1]	58.84	39.25	43.06	30.92
IR-based [2]	37.03	41.56	33.13	25.05
TOM-Net [3]	3.57	3.45	2.96	1.84
ClearGrasp [4]	<b>75.86</b>	49.99	56.24	42.72
TransLab [5]	73.50	<b>71.67</b>	<b>67.54</b>	<b>55.85</b>
Trans2Seg [6]	54.02	65.62	52.86	41.86

# Qualitative Sample Results



invalid depth mask

IR-based [2]

ClearGrasp [4]

Trans2Seg [6]

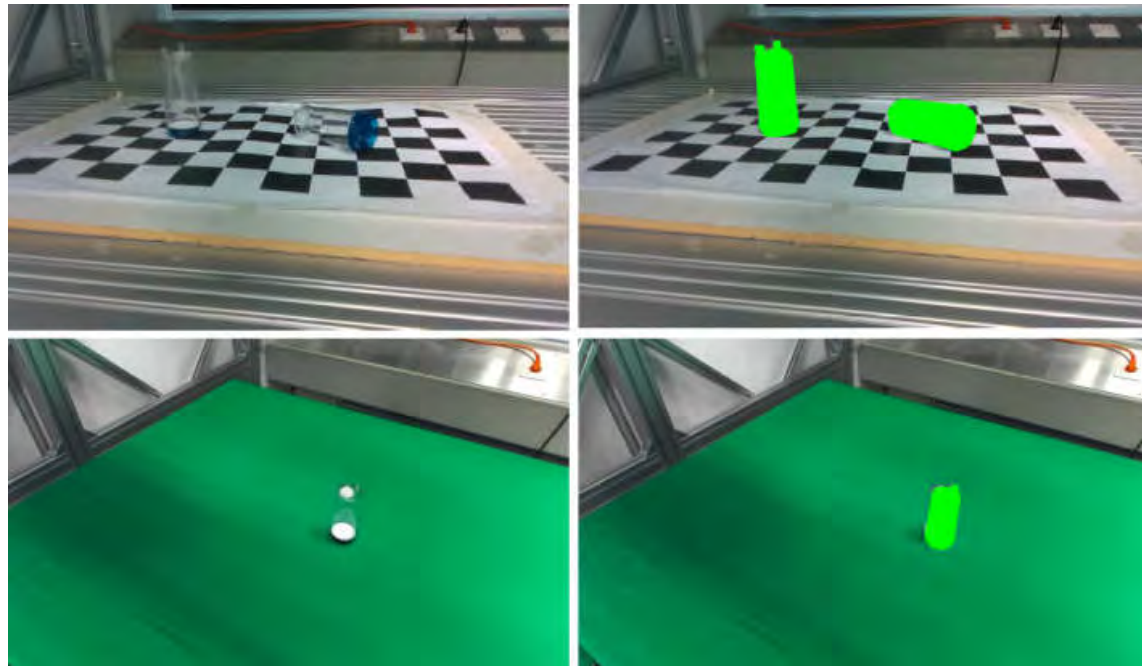
depth + GrabCut [1]

TOM-Net [3]

TransLab [5]

# Pose Estimation for Grasping

- Using annotated data for learning 6D pose estimation from RGB images only
- COPE (improved version of Pyrapose) [Thalhammer et al., RA-L 2021]

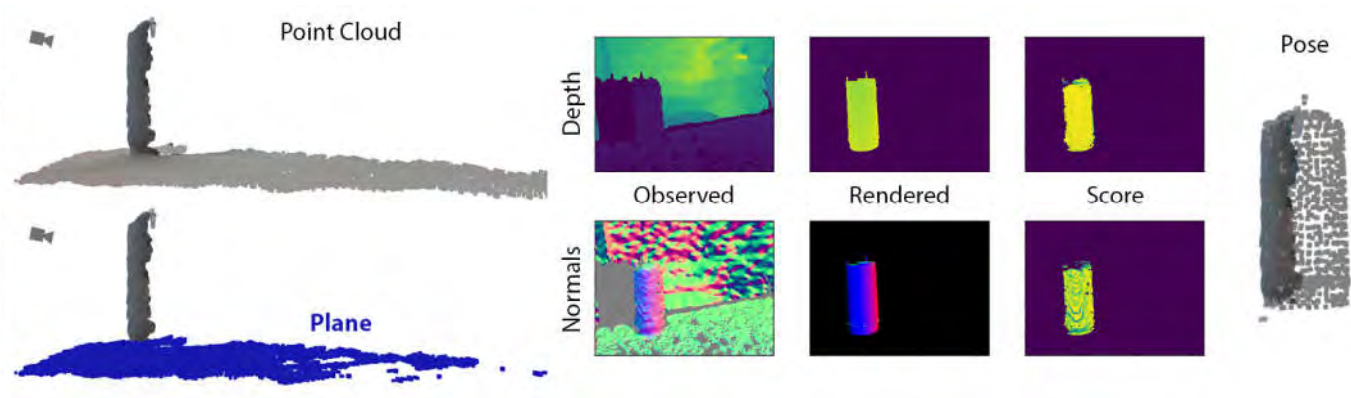
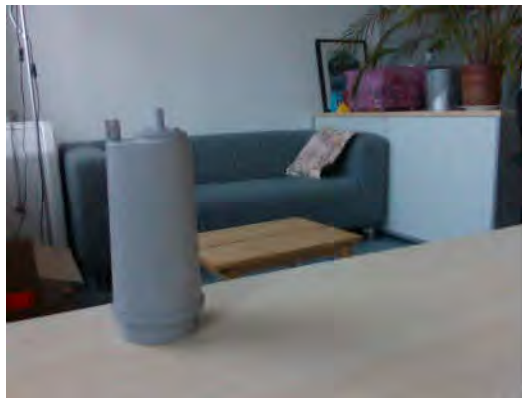


# Visual Task Verification

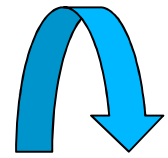
Improving pose estimation by verification

Rendering-based scoring

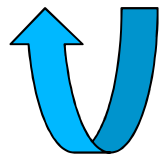
Multiple hypotheses



# Verification Loop – Vision & Physics Simulation

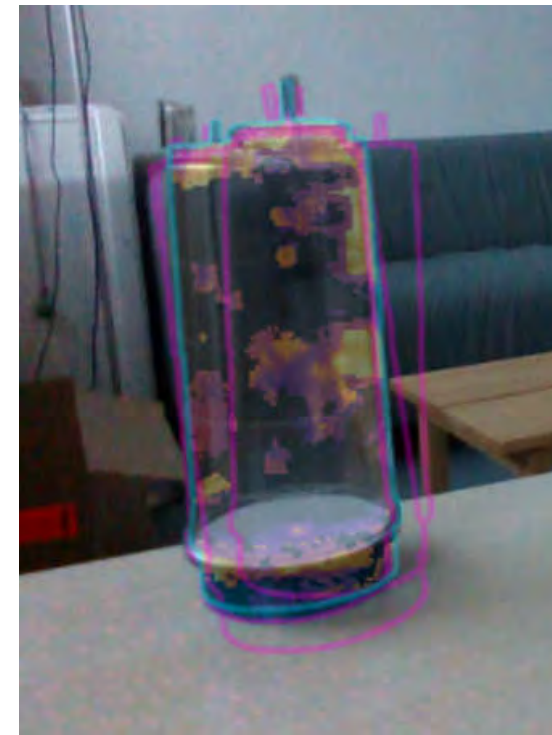
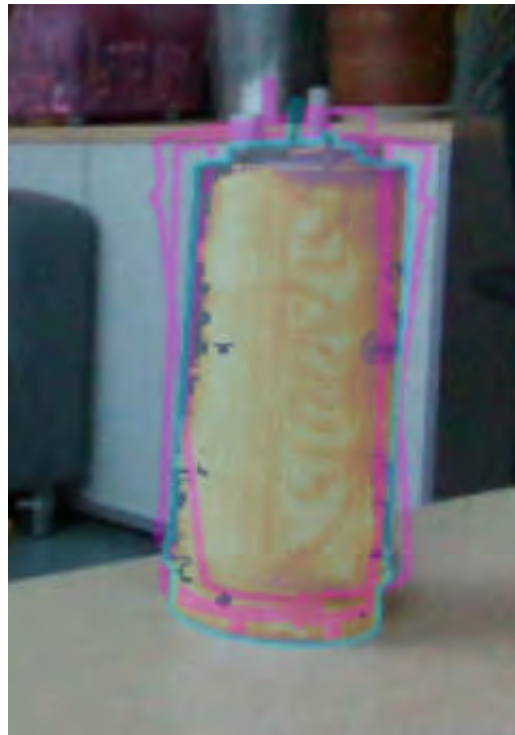


Physics  
simulation to  
improve pose  
estimate



Rendering to  
optimise object  
pose

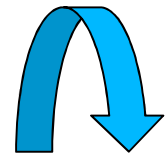
Simulation  
increases  
robustness to  
verify object  
pose



**Multiple initial** (PPF) and **selected improved** pose



# Verification Loop – Vision & Physics Simulation



Physics  
simulation to  
improve pose  
estimate



Pose refine  
through inverse  
rendering



Verification =  
hypothesis generation and  
plausibility check with physics simulation

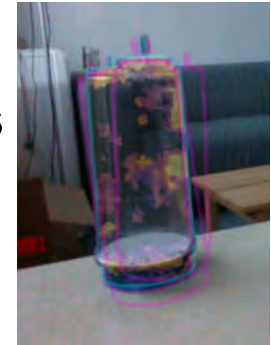
# Grasping Transparent Objects

- Test suitability of RGB-based object pose estimation
- Experiments with pose estimation and grasping on HSR robot
- Grasp planning using MoveIt



# Conclusion Transparent Object

- Methods show significant dependence on view point and type of scene
- DataSets help but need to capture actual challenge
- EasyLabel to annotate 1 view & transfer pose to all views
- Mix of CAD and real data improves performance
- Pose verification with Vision & Simulation Loop



[Park ICCV'20; Bauer CVPR 21'; Bauer WACV '22]

**EUROBOTICS FORUM 2022**  
**AI DRIVEN**  
**VISION IN**  
**LOGISTICS**

**LIVING LOGISTICS**  
**REALISING**  
**VISIONS**





Transport Logistics

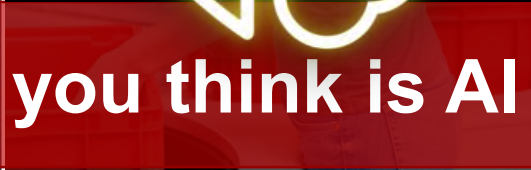
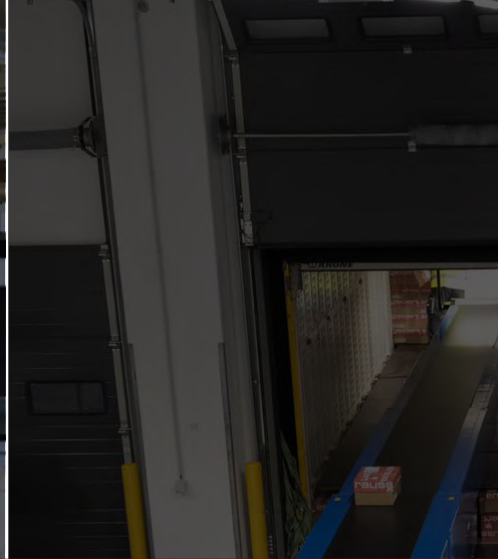
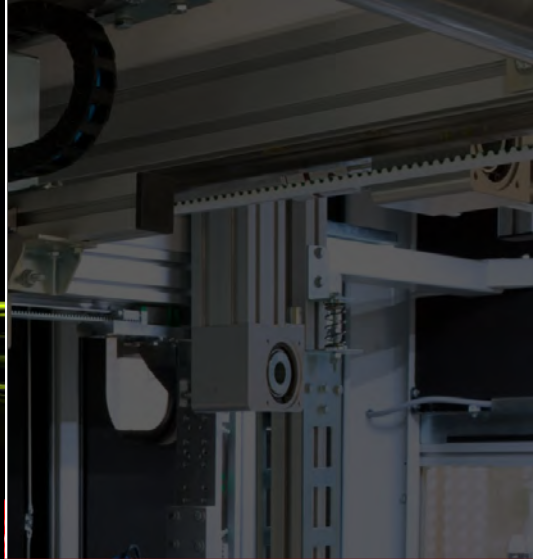
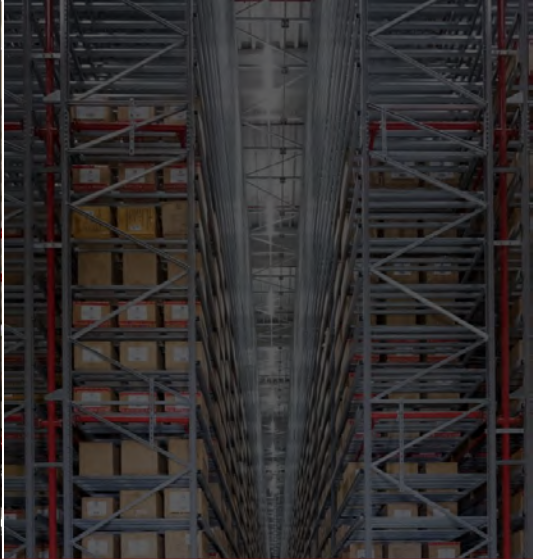


Warehouse Logistics

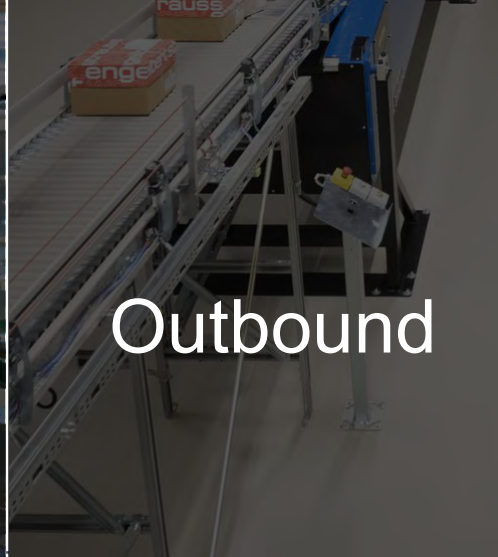
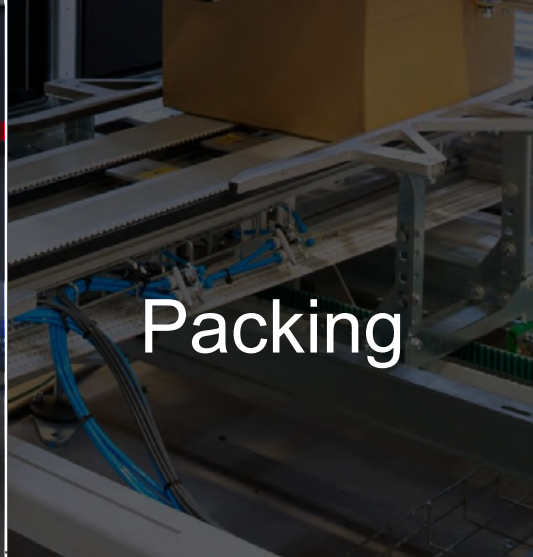
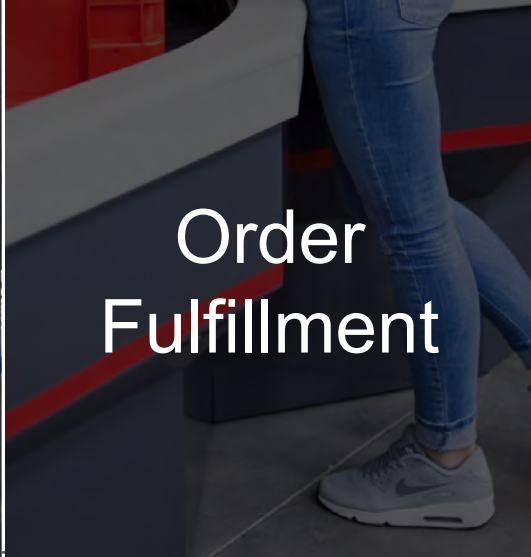
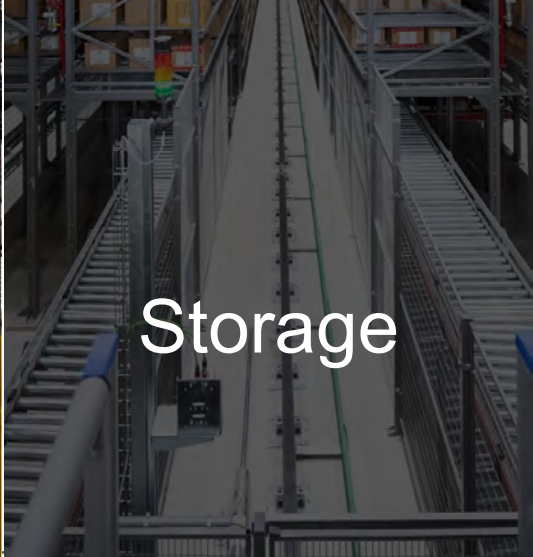
# About

- Founded 1969
- HQ in Marchtrenk, Austria
- 4.000+ employees
- Delivers automated warehouse solutions





# Where do you think is AI involved?



Inbound

Storage

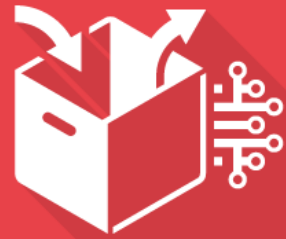
Order Fulfillment

Packing

Outbound



CARTON  
QUALITY  
INSPECTION



AI POWERED  
REPLENISHMENT &  
PURGING



AI POWERED  
TARGET SEQUENCER



ROBO  
PACKAGING



OPPORTUNISTIC  
PALLET PACKING

AI is EVERYWHERE!

Inbound

Storage

Order  
Fulfillment

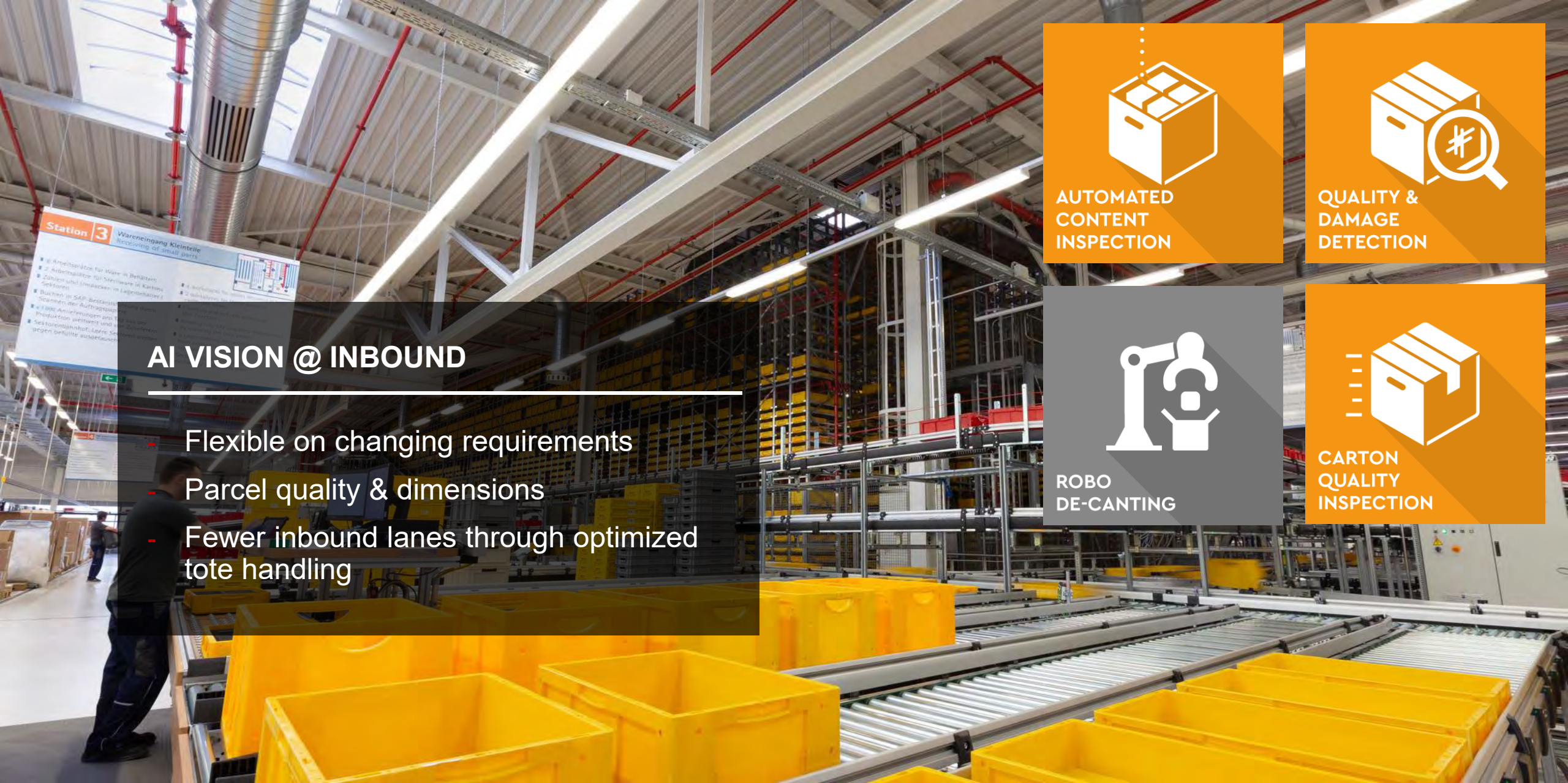
Packing

Outbound



# WHAT'S IMAGINABLE WITH AI

- Empty/Fill-Level detection
- Contamination detection
- Un-/Strapped detection
- Damaged detection
- Item counting
- Difference counting
- Pick- & Place area recognition
- Dimensioning
- Optimization in De-/Palletizing (Sorting)
- Jam detection




**Station 3** Wareneingang Kleinteile  
Receiving of small parts

- 1. Anfertigungsplätze für Käufe in Belgien
- 2. Arbeitsplätze für Stellenweise in Kartons
- 3. Zählen und Umsacken in Kartons
- 4. Sortieren
- 5. Buchen in SAP-Bestandsbuchung über Auftragsplan
- 6. 3000 Anlieferungen pro Tag
- 7. Produktion weitläufig und
- 8. Saisonabhängig. Letzte Saison gegenwärtig abgeschlossen

## AI VISION @ INBOUND

- Flexible on changing requirements
- Parcel quality & dimensions
- Fewer inbound lanes through optimized tote handling



**AUTOMATED  
CONTENT  
INSPECTION**



**QUALITY &  
DAMAGE  
DETECTION**



**ROBO  
DE-CANTING**



**CARTON  
QUALITY  
INSPECTION**

# QUALITY @ INBOUND

- Tote quality inspection
  - Contaminated
  - Damaged
  - Un-/Strapped



SMART CAMERA



CARTON QUALITY INSPECTION



QUALITY & DAMAGE DETECTION



Contaminated



Deformed



Strapped

# EMPTY @ INBOUND

- Empty tote detection
- Challenge:
  - Different tote types
  - Contamination
  - Colors, ...



SMART  
CAMERA



CARTON  
QUALITY  
INSPECTION



QUALITY &  
DAMAGE  
DETECTION



← Empty vs. Not Empty →



## PICKING @ ORDER FULFILLMENT

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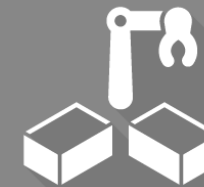
- Optimized Picking
- Find best item to pick
- Reinforcement approach to find best areas to place items
- Count articles (double check)



SMART  
CAMERA



ROVOLUTION



ROVOFLEX

## PICKING @ ORDER FULFILLMENT

- Optimized Picking
- Find best item to pick
- Reinforcement approach to find best areas to place items

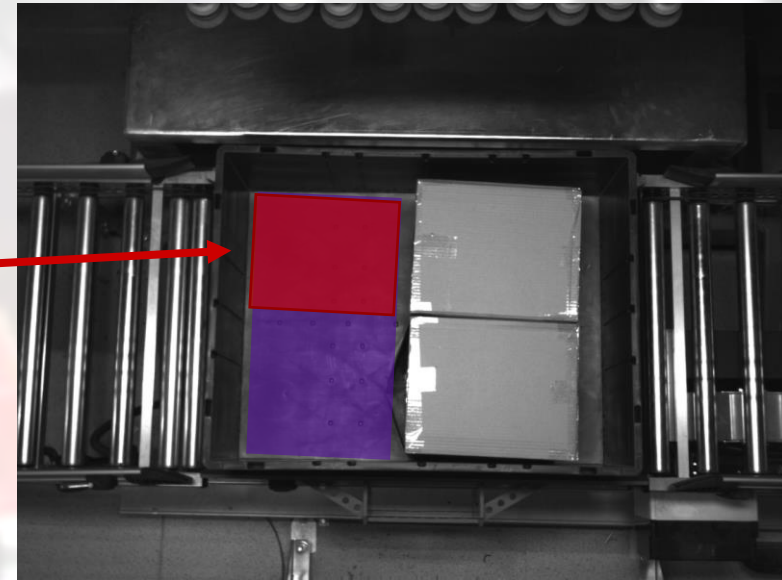
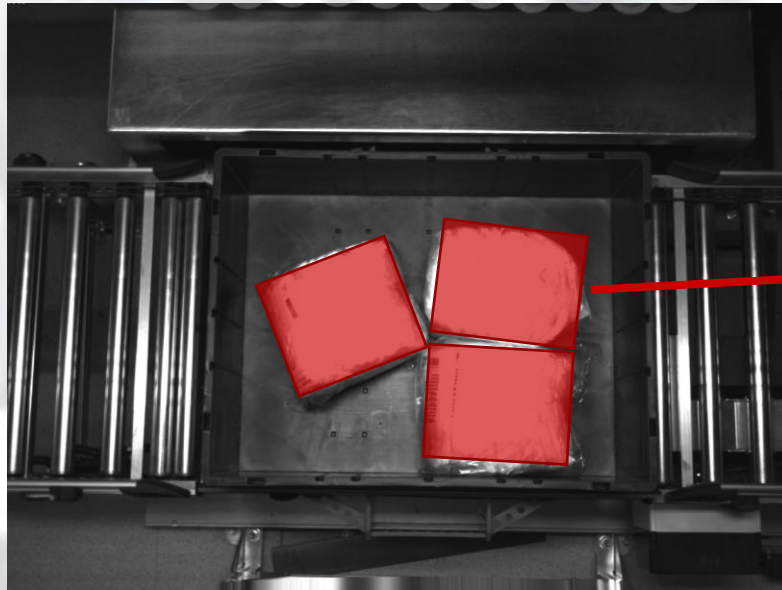


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CAMERA



ROVOLUTION

- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Find a gripable item on the source side (left image)
- Put it on an empty/available area on the target side (right image)



## COUNTING @ ORDER FULFILLMENT

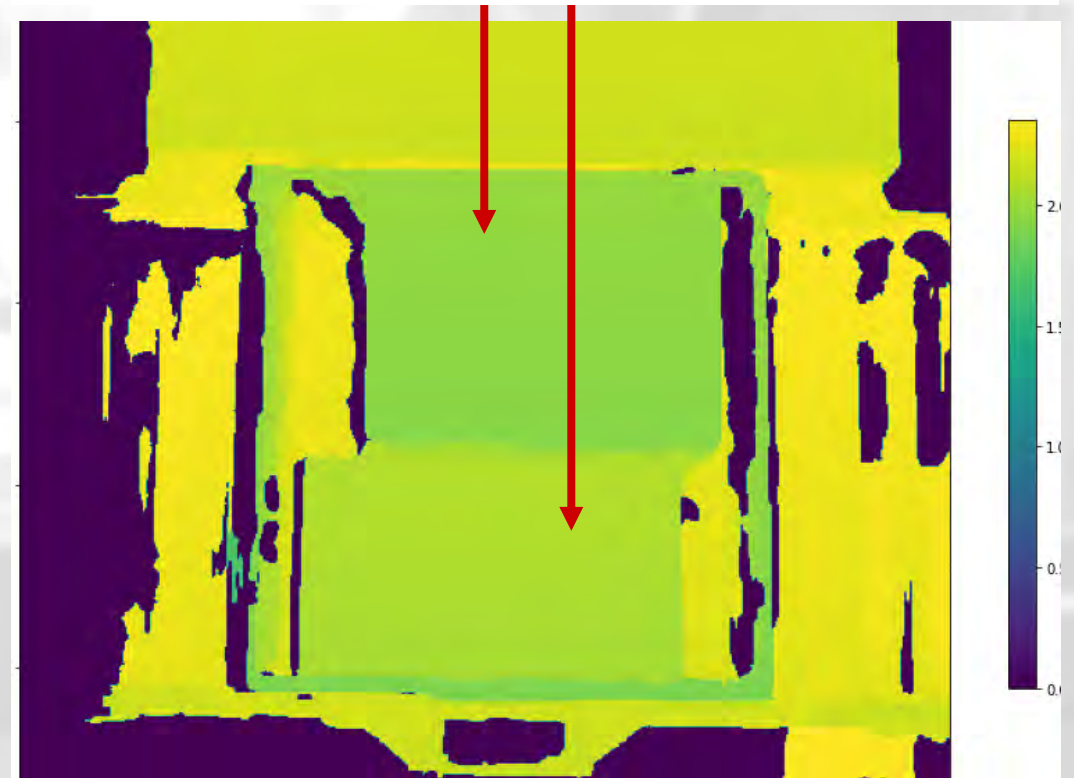
- Count on Source & Target side
- Enough items in source
- Correct amount picked on target



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CAMERA

We can assume that there are 2 more items below the top ones.

Therefore we count 6 items instead of 4 visible with a confidence of >90%.



## AI VISION @ PACKING

- Carton Reduction by Fill-Level
- Optimized Palletizing (Sorting)
- Reinforcement through pack density



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CAMERA



OPPORTUNISTIC  
PALLET PACKING



AI POWERED  
TARGET SEQUENCER



AI POWERED  
REPLENISHMENT &  
PURGING



## REDUCTION @ PACKING

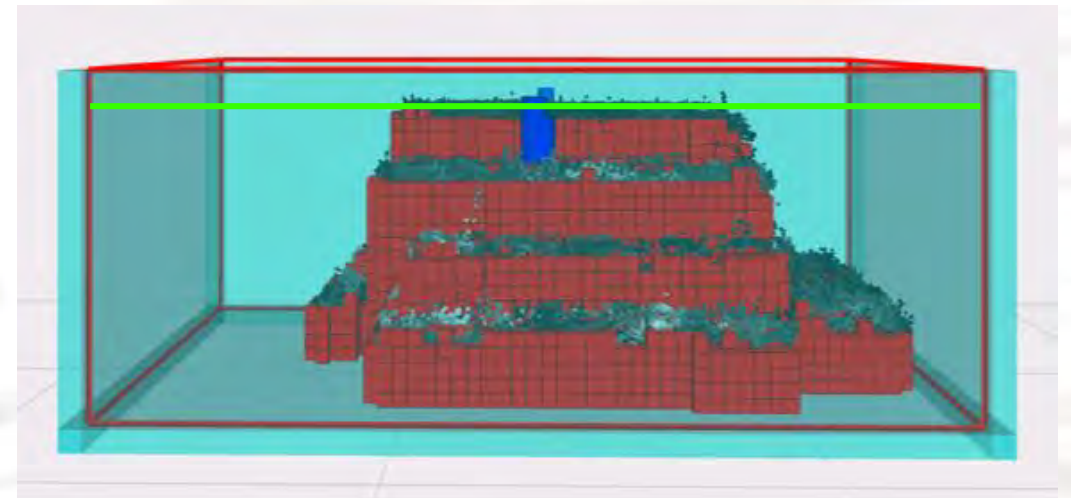
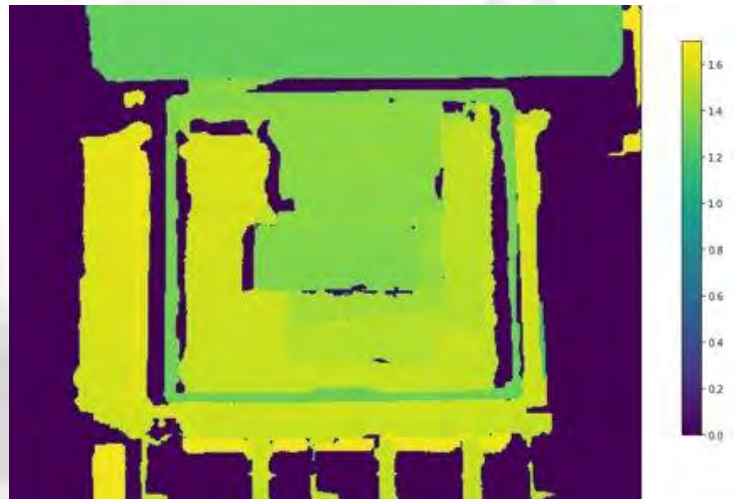
- Fill Level / Volume detection
- Cut the height to optimize shipping storage
- Gain space on pallets



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Left: 3D camera depth image  
Right: computer calculated perspective

Fill-Lvl: 89%  
Fill-Volume: 42%



AI Vision is under heavy R&D with lots of specialized island solutions.



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CAMERA

Our vision is a holistic approach,  
a simple to use ecosystem for all applications,  
ready for market.



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**EUROBOTICS FORUM 2022**

## **CONTACT**

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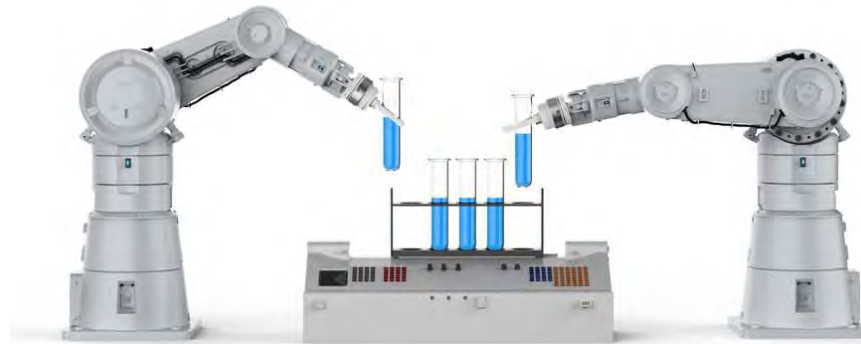


# ERF 2022

## Perception challenges in the laboratory

Patrick Courtney

TG analytical laboratory robotics



A terrible headache

# What's still missing?

- What: traceable robots in regulated operations
- Why: scaling up vaccine, medicines
- TraceBot project

sterility  
testing  
according  
to USP<71>

- 4 year €7M
- AI (Uni Bremen)
- digital twins
- Pharma driven



# TRACEBOT



Setting up materials  
in a controlled  
environment  
(Isolator)



Sample Filtration in the  
canisters to  
concentrate it on a  
membrane.



Canisters filling with  
culture.

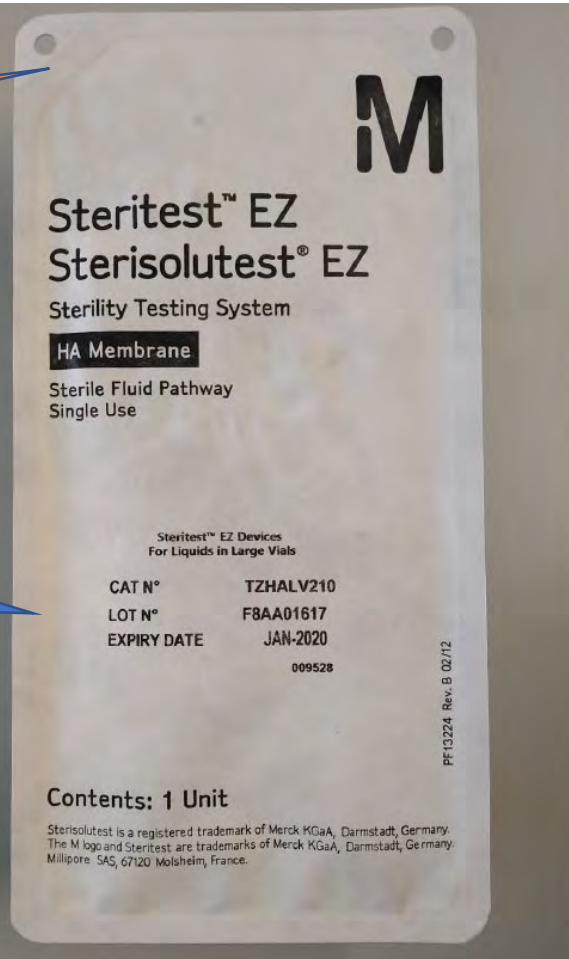


Visual readout: a  
cloudy appearance  
in canister reveals  
contaminant growth

# Kits and Packaging – not yet robot friendly

White-on-white pull tab - hard to locate and grip

Labelling not barcoded



Glossy transparent plastic - hard to see

flexible plastic – no obvious grasp points

Glossy transparent plastic - hard to see

Sustainability?  
Lots of waste



How would a disabled person open this ?



Robots are not superheroes, they are disabled

# Some myths about robots

- Don't get ill
- Don't go on strike
- Don't take a break
- Don't go on holiday
- Don't ask for a pay rise

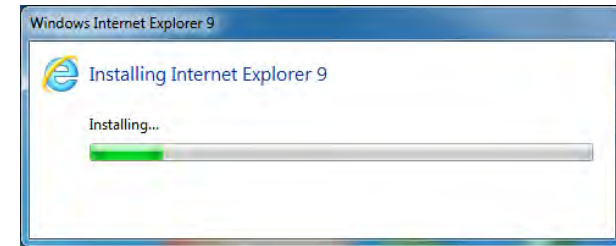
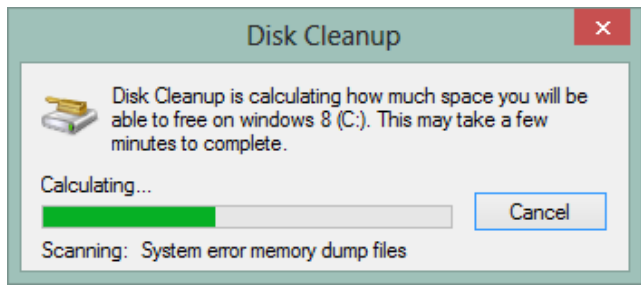
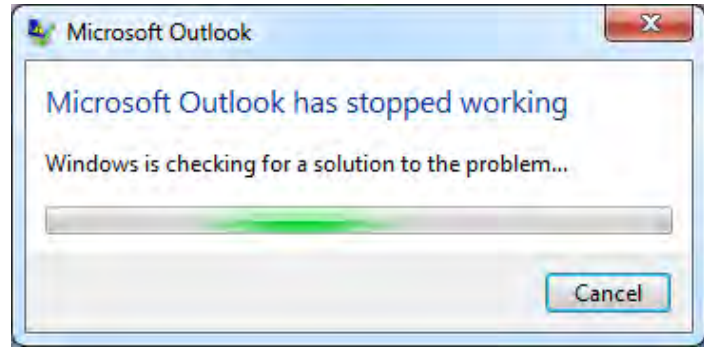
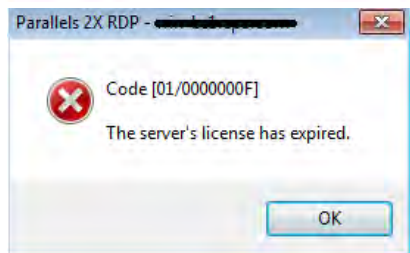
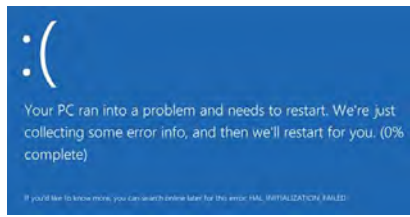
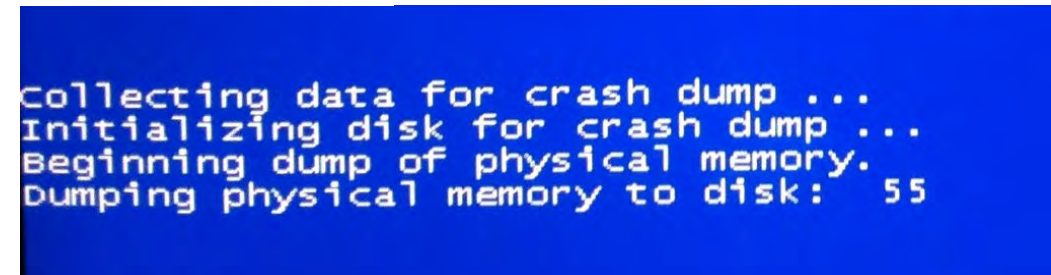
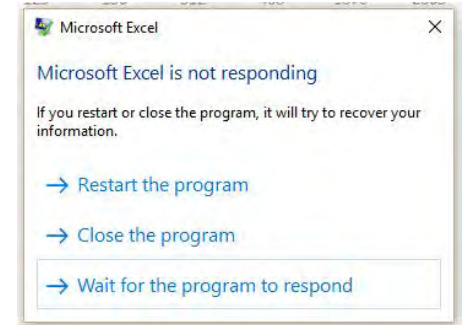
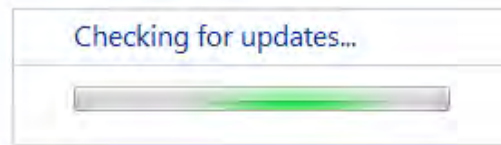
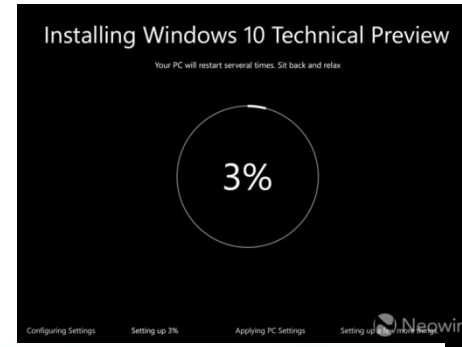
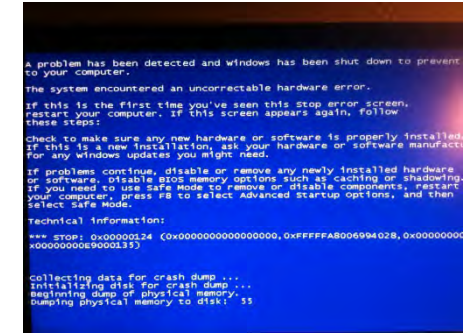
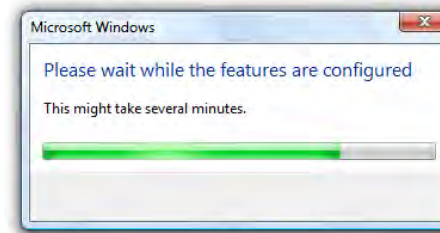


Spot by Boston Dynamics

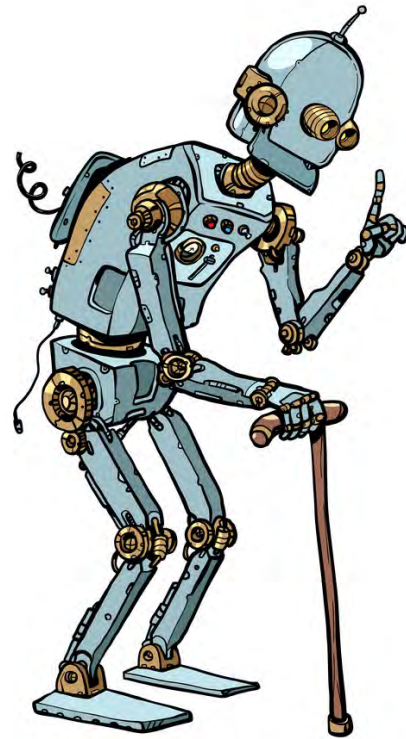
Robots are not superheroes, they are disabled

# The myth of Robot uptime

- Robot on a coffee break
- Robot with flu: virus, a worm
- Robot going to sleep
- Robot going to the toilet
- Robot on holiday
- Robot in a meeting, gossiping
- Robot on a training course
- Robot swimming in a data lake



We are learning to be kind to our fellow humans.  
Can we learn to be kind to our robots?



St Paul's Cathedral



Sumaira Latif, Accessibility Leader, Procter & Gamble



# Meanwhile, in the supermarket

- Great progress in recent years
- But still a lot to do



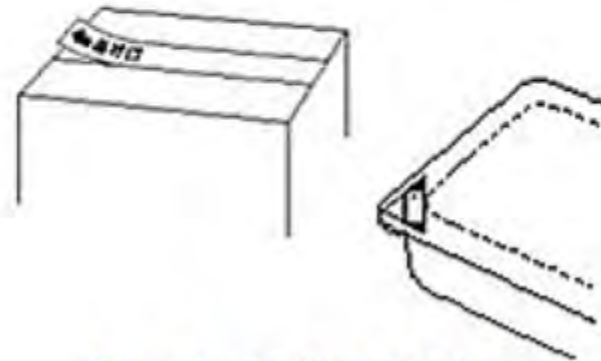
Figure 1: Examples of accessible designs for elderly and disabled people in the field of packaging

**[i] Easy to identify contents**



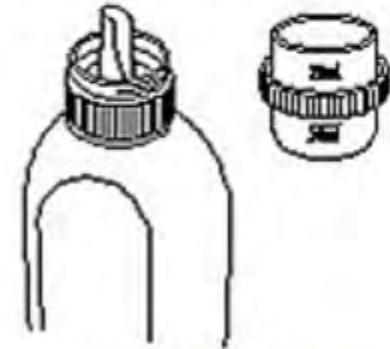
Shampoo bottles as containers with a tactile mark

**[ii] Easy to identify how to open**



Clear indication to show a section to open containers

**[iii] Easy to measure and pour contents**



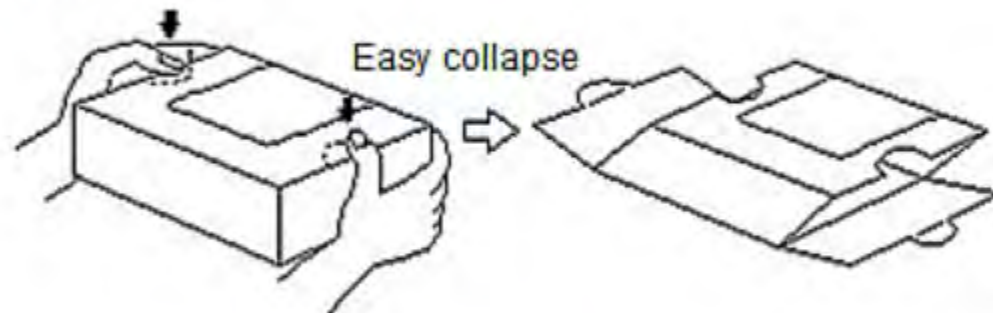
Knurled bottle-caps to measure contents

**[iv] Easy to carry and pour contents**



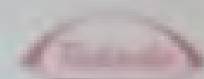
PET containers with dents or dimples

**[v] Easy to dispose containers**



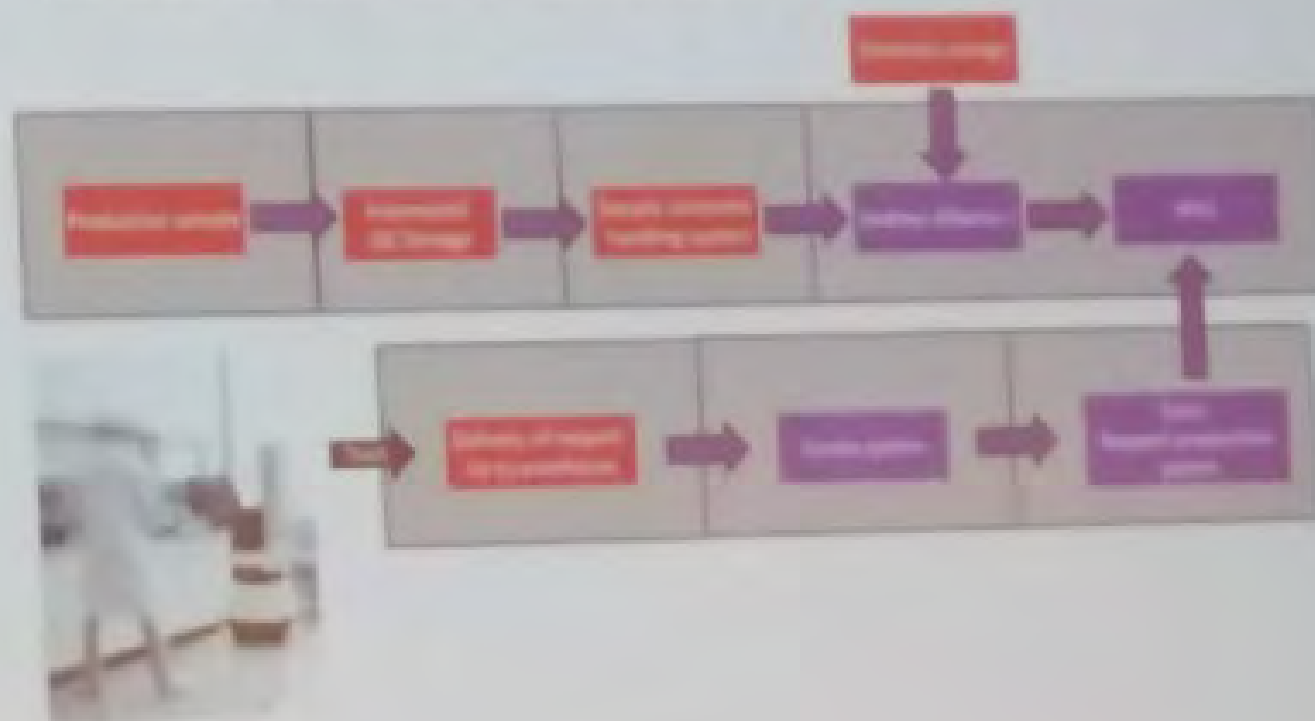
Containers smoothly collapsible before disposal

# Standardized robot-friendly materials



- Sample containers
- Robot Friendly Packaging
- Labelling

The Lab ecosystem using mobile robots



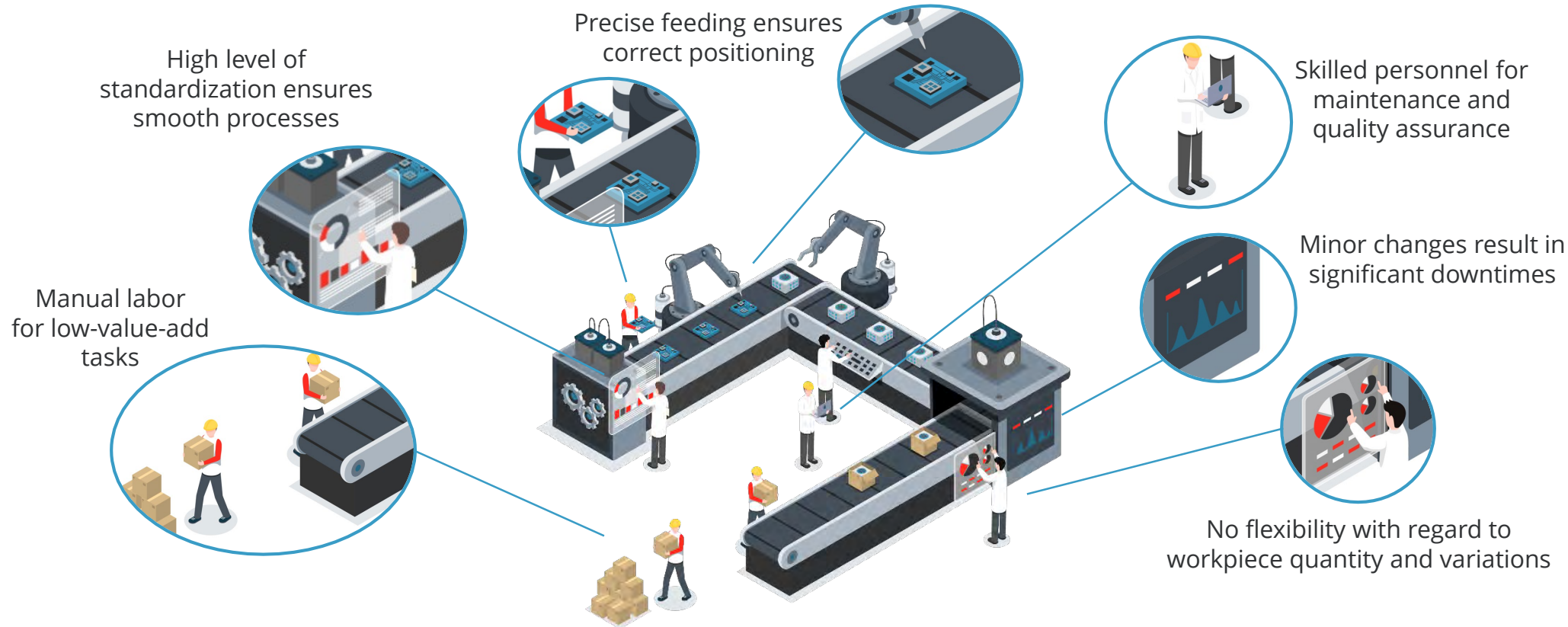


# Model-based Machine Learning for Pick-and-Place in Agile Production

Dr. Michael Suppa

## ROBOTS NOT SMART ENOUGH FOR NEXT-LEVEL INDUSTRY 4.0

- Potential offered by automating simpler use cases has been exhausted
- Next evolutionary step for Industry 4.0 is urgently needed
- Robots must be enabled to automate more complex tasks



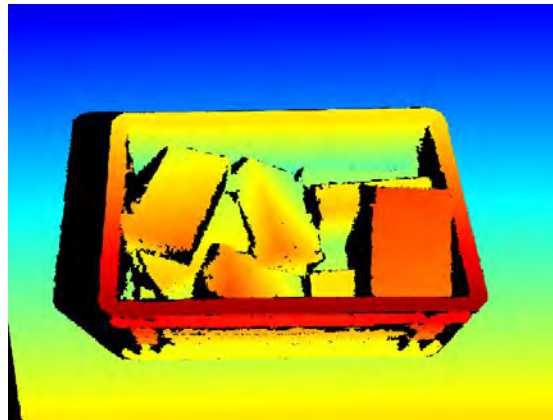
## Why 3D Stereo?

UNSTRUCTURED ENVIRONMENTS REQUIRE 3D DATA

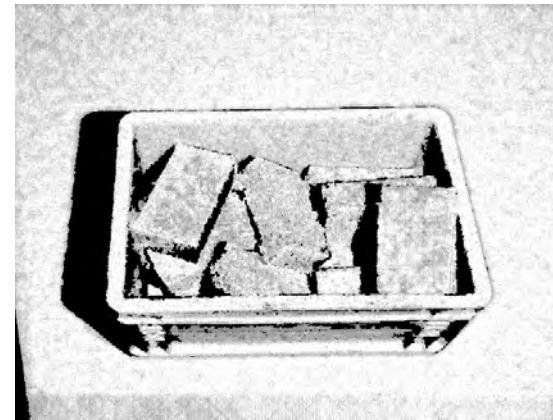
- Stereo delivers RGB-D data directly synchronized in time and calibrated
- Increase in computing resources allows for onboard computation in real-time
- Depth is needed for accuracy and flexibility, images are the key data base for machine learning
- Combination of algorithms and machine learning in one system



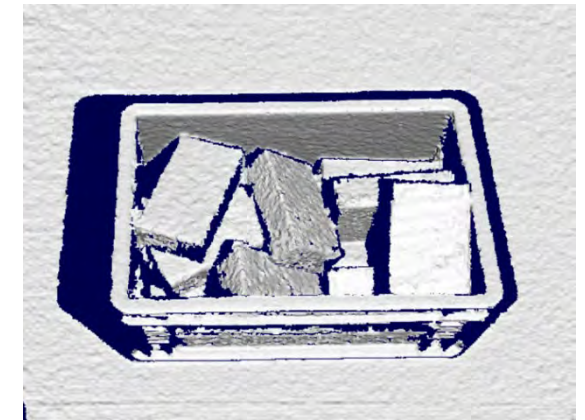
Camera Image



Depth Image



Confidence Image



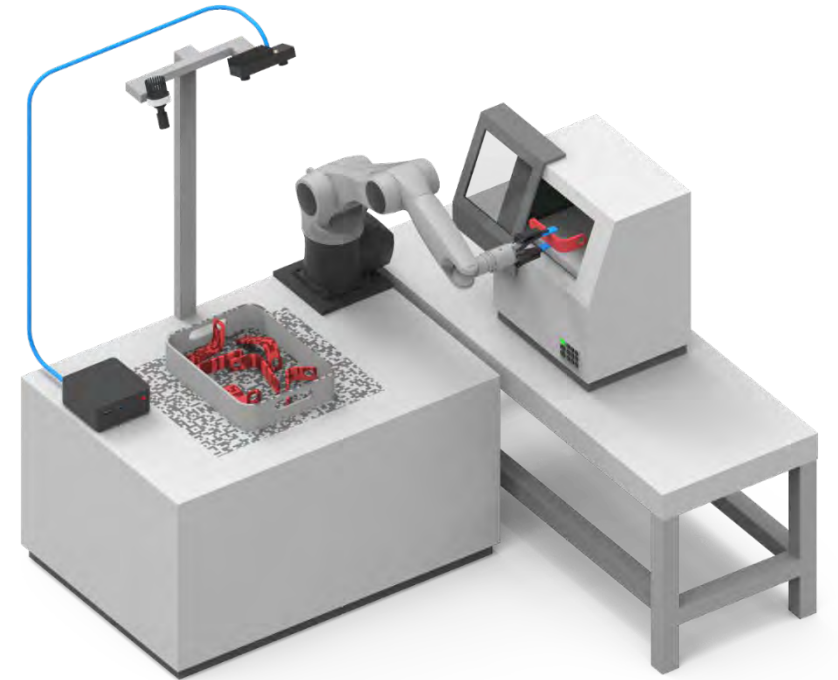
3D Reconstruction

# roboception

## rc\_reason CADMatch ROBOTIC MACHINE TENDING

Detects position and orientation of objects using CAD models.

- Detection and localization of objects based on CAD data
- Delivers grasp point(s) for reliable pick-and-place
- Grasp teaching interface
- Applied AI-based part training process
- Works with static and robot-mounted sensors coupled with rc\_randomdot pattern projector
- Runs offboard on rc\_cube



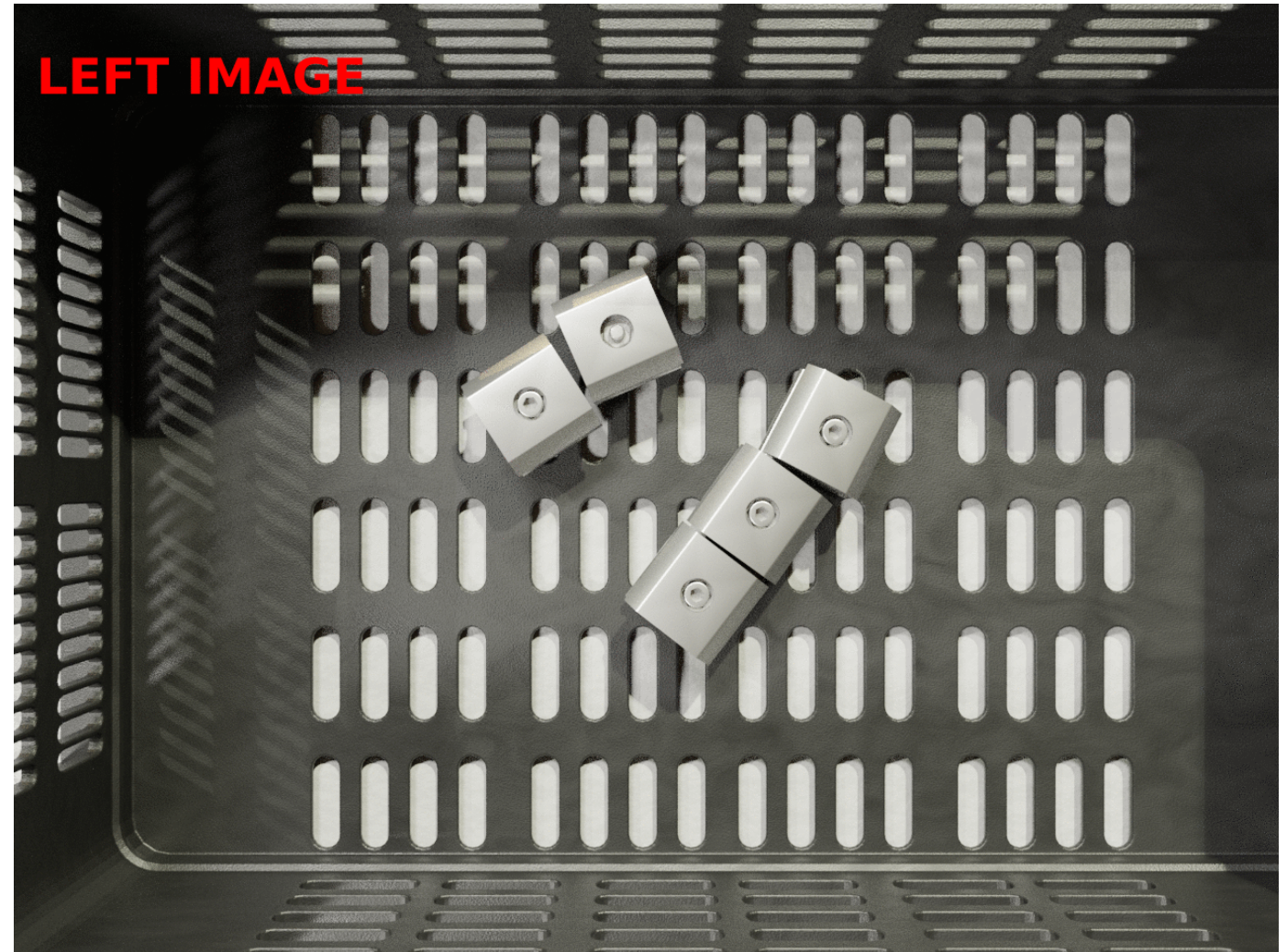
# roboception

rc\_reason CADMatch

TWO-STAGE DETECTION USING CAD MODELS

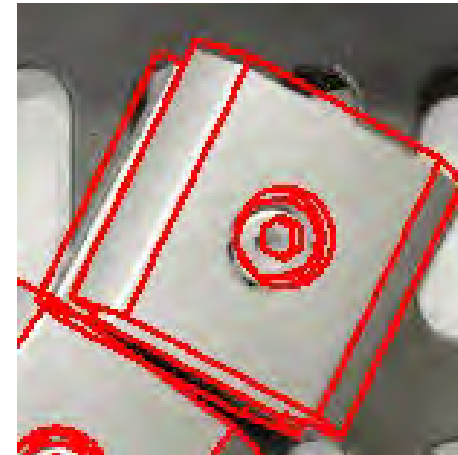
**Stage 1:** Object detection and pose estimation using machine learning (CNNs). Automated training procedure on simulation images, no manual labeling required

**Stage 2:** Object pose refinement to reach target accuracy

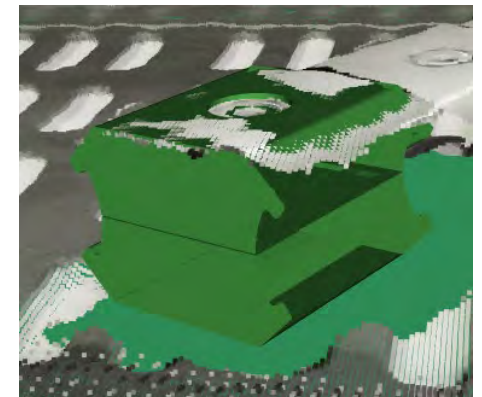
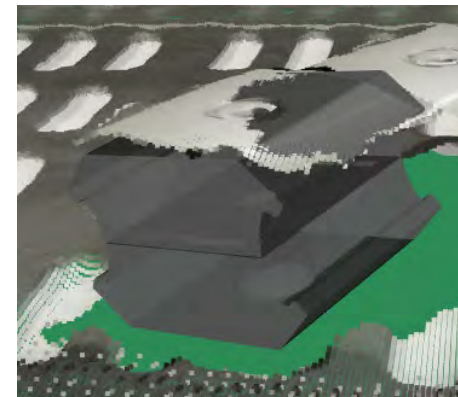


- Object poses estimated by the AI component are refined to reach the target accuracy
- The pose refinement component:
  - Aligns edges in the CAD model to edges in the 2D image
  - Aligns the CAD model surface to the 3D point cloud
- Advantages of this solution
  - Robustness to environment conditions from AI component
  - Robustness to missing data in 3D reconstruction
  - Leverage multi-object view from stereo system

Stage 1



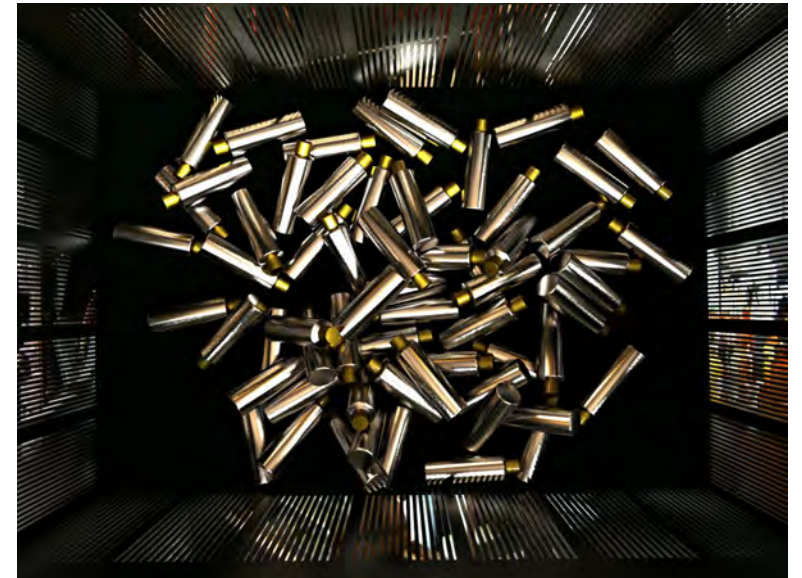
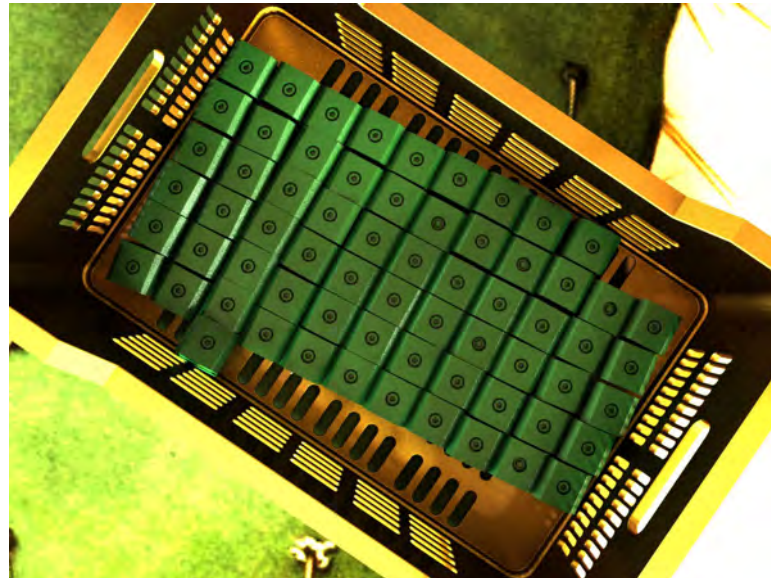
Stage 2



# roboception

## CADMatch Template Generation SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT

- Training images generated in a photorealistic simulation environment
- Large material library for robustness against color response and lightning conditions
- Requires **no on-site** data recording
- Support for different use-cases and multi-material parts



## CADMatch Template Generation

### PERFORMANCE EVALUATION IN SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT

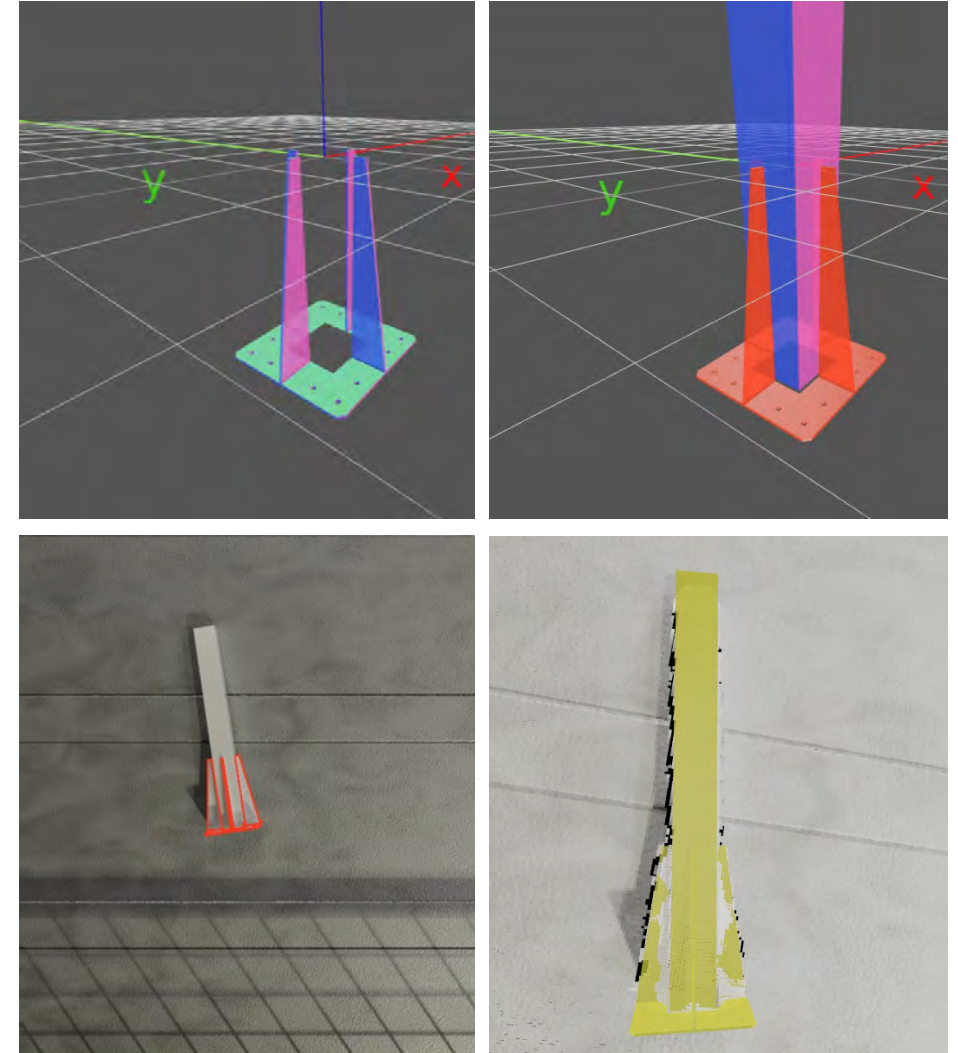
- The simulation environment is also used to estimate the achievable detection accuracy for each part
- The 3D point cloud is computed using Roboception stereo algorithm from a simulated stereo image pair (high realism of 3D data, including sensor noise)
- Training can be enriched with real data
- Simulation results included in a report provided with each template





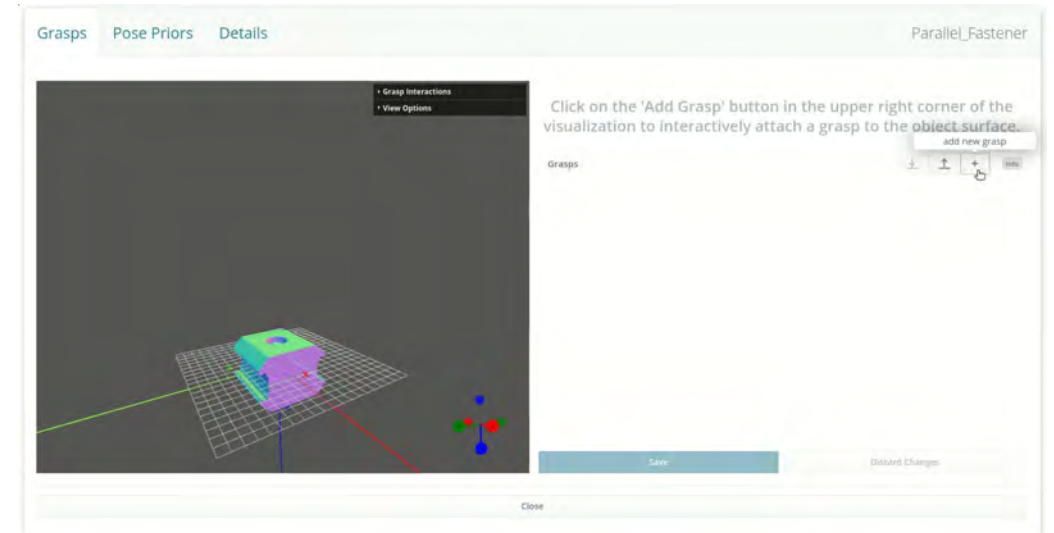
## CADMatch Template Generation PARTIAL TEMPLATES

- Enables detection of portions of a complete CAD model (partial objects)
- Target use-cases:
  - Large objects that cannot be entirely in one camera view
  - Objects that are highly occluded when placed in a bin (e.g. large stacks of flat parts)
  - Configurable objects (e.g. a switch that can change between two configurations)
  - Partially solid objects: object that have a partially soft or changing structure (e.g. brushes)

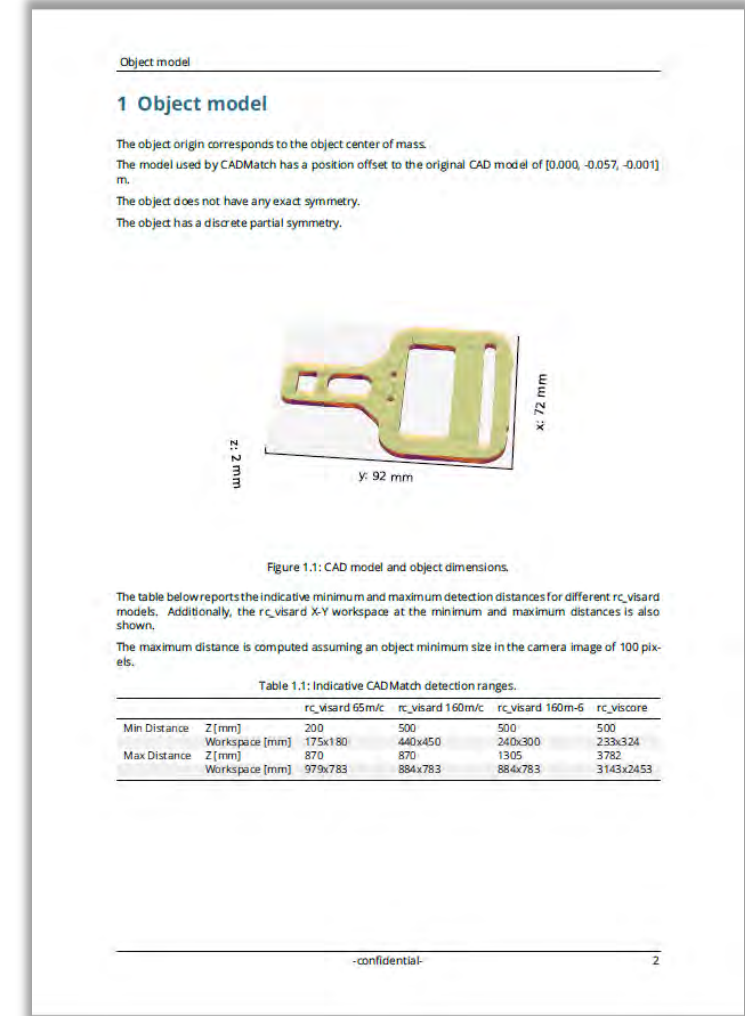
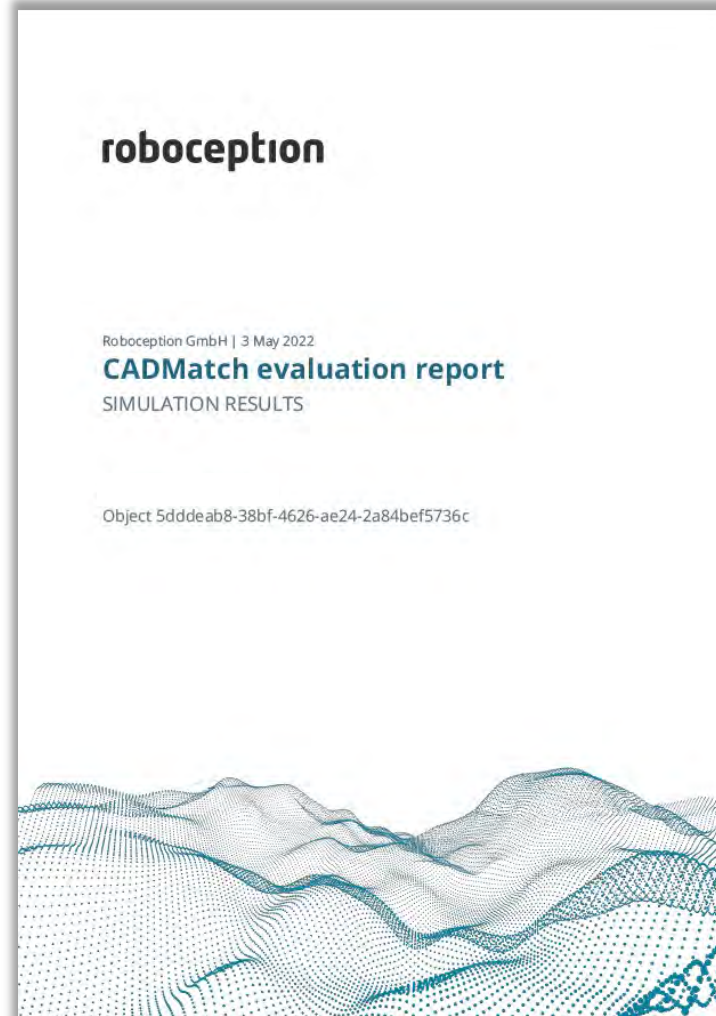
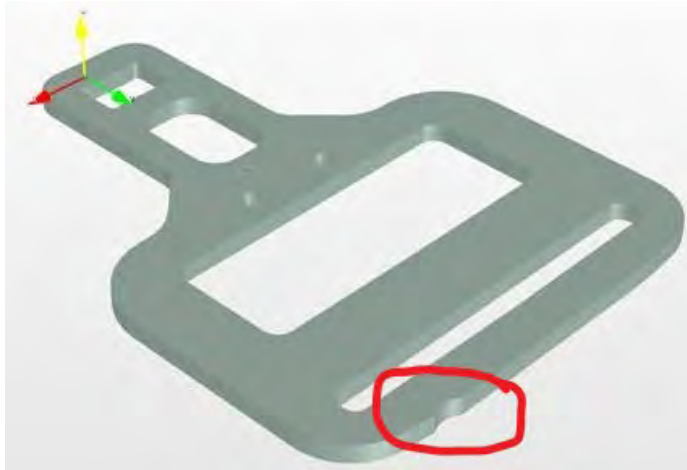


## CADMatch Configuration GRASP TEACHING INTERFACE

- Grasp poses are configurable
  - via the Web GUI with an interactive visualization of the CAD model
  - programmatically via the REST API
- Automatic projection of grasps on symmetric objects
- Configurable sorting strategies define the order of grasps returned at detection time
- A preferred TCP orientation can be configured to minimize the rotation of the gripper during picking



## CADModel and CADMatch Report



## Example Case DETECTION ACCURACIES

Working range:

		rc_visard 65m/c	rc_visard 160m/c	rc_visard 160m-6	rc_viscore
Min Distance	Z [mm]	200	500	500	500
	Workspace [mm]	175x180	440x450	240x300	233x324
Max Distance	Z [mm]	870	870	1305	3782
	Workspace [mm]	979x783	884x783	884x783	3143x2453

Detection for best matched parts:

	Position accuracy [mm]	Rotation accuracy [deg]	Rotation accuracy with symmetry [deg]
Mean	2.035	38.1	1.3
Standard Dev	1.026	72.4	1.0
Median	2.006	1.3	1.0

Assuming the parts to be symmetric (ignoring the Poke-Yoke feature) gives good results

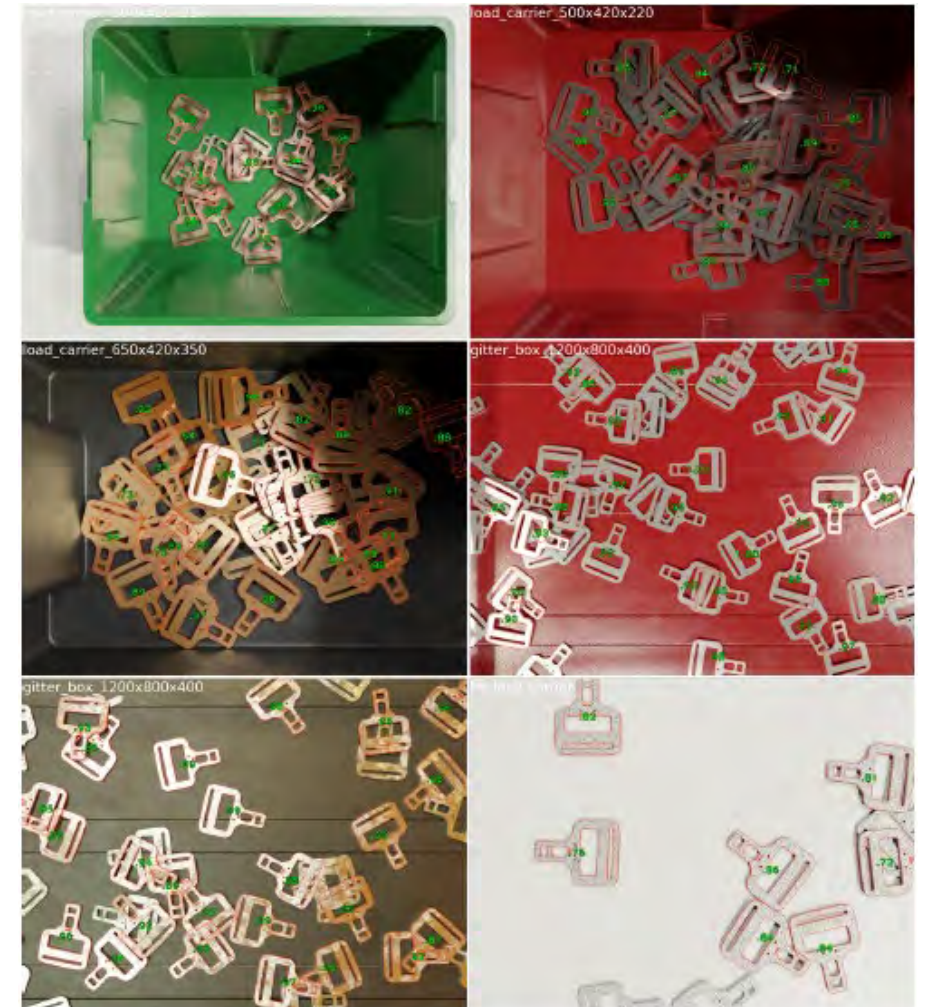


Figure 2.1: Sample detection results on simulation images. The green number represents the detection score computed by CADMatch.

## Example Case

### DETECTION RESULTS IN SIMULATION MODE

The screenshot displays the Roboception software interface in simulation mode. It features several key components:

- Live Left Image:** A top-left window showing the raw camera feed.
- Intermediate Result:** A window below the live image showing the initial processing of the camera feed.
- Main Detection View:** A large central window showing the camera feed with a blue bounding box around the entire scene and several red bounding boxes numbered 0 through 6, indicating detected objects.
- 3D Point Cloud View:** A window on the right showing a 3D reconstruction of the scene with colored bounding boxes corresponding to the detected objects.
- Match 1 Detail:** A small window showing the score and pose in camera for the first match.
- Result of Object Detection Table:** A table at the bottom right providing detailed data for each detected object.

**Match 1 Detail:**

Match 1  
Score 0.928  
Pose in camera  
X 0.1132 Y 0.1410 Z 0.846  
R 174.3 P 7.9 Y 63.2

**Result of Object Detection Table:**

Timestamp	Result of Object Detection						
5/21/2021, 5:27:17 PM							
<b>Load Carrier</b>	<b>Position (m)</b>		<b>Roll/Pitch/Yaw (deg)</b>				
auer_30x20	X 0.0499	Y 0.0538	Z 0.8217	R -175.6	P -14.6	Y -112.2	
<b>Detections of autoliv_LS3737_ctc_6233845_pl_e in frame camera</b>							
<b>Matches</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Position (m)</b>		<b>Roll/Pitch/Yaw (deg)</b>			
0	0.962	X 0.0064	Y 0.0855	Z 0.8607	R -9.7	P -6.5	Y -36.2
1	0.928	X 0.1132	Y 0.1410	Z 0.8466	R 174.3	P 7.9	Y 63.2
2	0.883	X 0.0344	Y 0.1478	Z 0.8461	R 4.1	P 16.2	Y 68.8
3	0.864	X -0.0252	Y 0.0012	Z 0.8886	R 160.1	P 10.6	Y -6.8
4	0.860	X 0.0507	Y -0.0352	Z 0.8952	R -172.8	P 24.7	Y 98.0
5	0.854	X 0.0867	Y 0.0366	Z 0.8744	R 174.1	P -5.7	Y -25.8
6	0.813	X 0.0983	Y 0.0914	Z 0.8602	R -161.8	P -7.8	Y -158.8

**Performance Metrics:**

- Time since last detection: 00:00:10
- Acquisition time (ms): 453.4
- Processing time (ms): 995.0

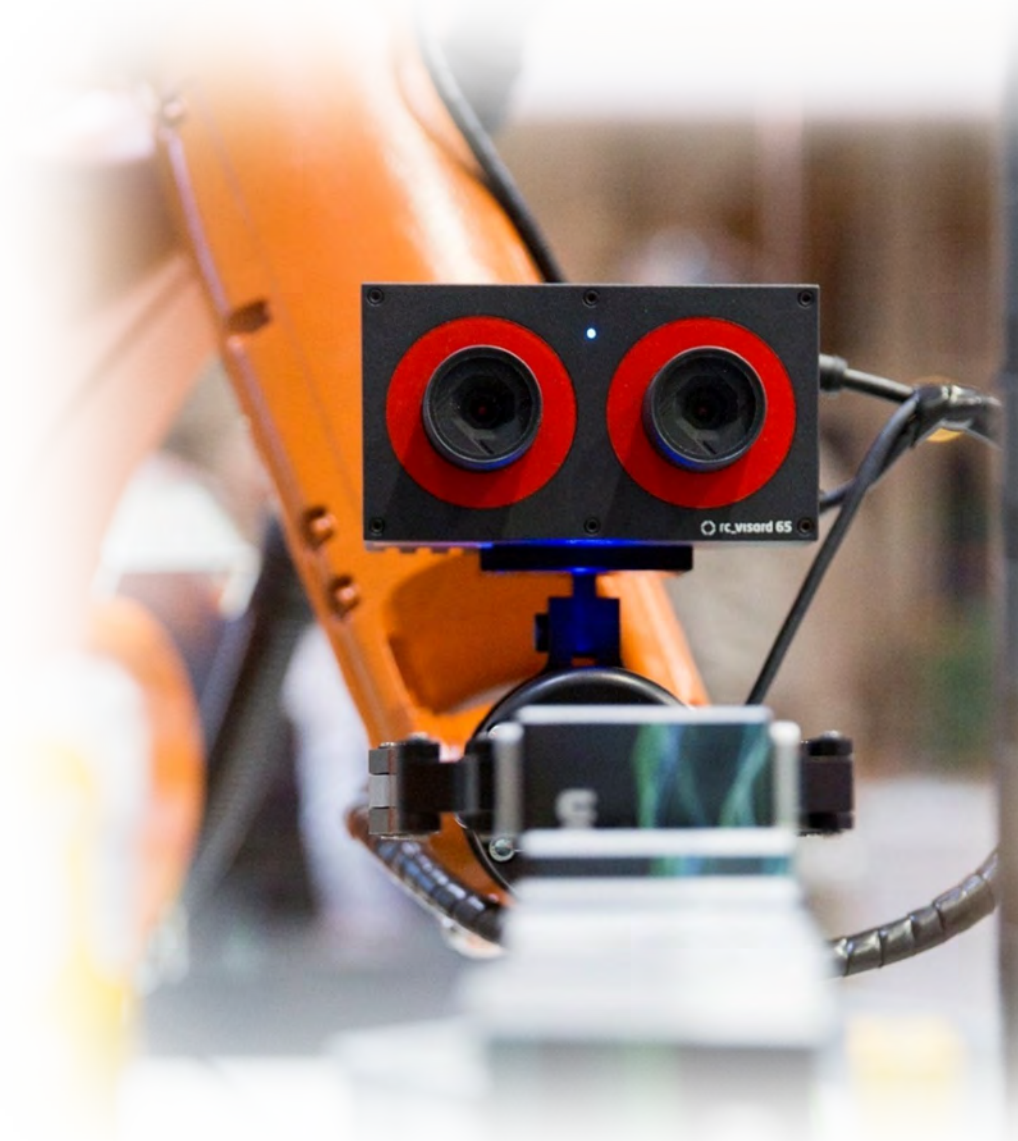
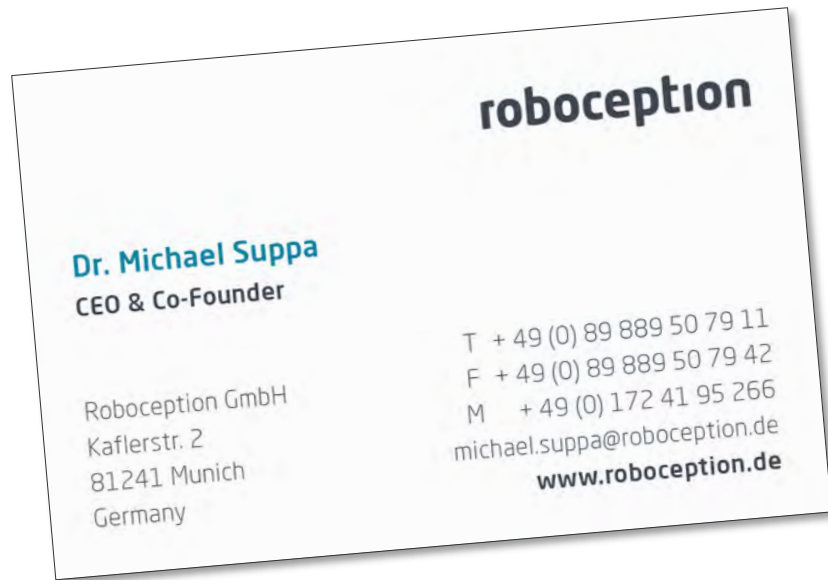
# roboception

## Model-based Machine Learning for Pick-and-Place in Agile Production

- 3D stereo for sparse and dense data, as resolution can be easily scaled
- Combined object detection using classical and machine learning approaches delivers robustness and flexibility
- Intuitive standard interfaces allow for compatibility and usability by non-vision experts
- Machine learning-based picking can be differentiated:
  - Offsite training without labelling in unmixed scenarios
  - Data-driven and onsite training for mixed scenarios
- Bundles/interoperable components allows scaling effects by reduction of project specific engineering effort



## THANK YOU



# Cooperating Robots and Applied AI for Reconfigurable Manufacturing

**Presenter:** Christos Gkournelos



Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation, University of Patras, Greece

Email: [gkournelos@lms.mech.upatras.gr](mailto:gkournelos@lms.mech.upatras.gr)



# The Problem

 **Factories struggle to follow the market demand for new products**

## **Fixed automation is efficient only for mass production**

- Processes are predetermined
- Robots & machines in fixed position & pre-programmed
- Costs time and effort to introduce new product variants



## **Full manual production creates strain to workers**

- **7.6 million people** must lift and carry heavy loads
  - Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD)
  - High work absenteeism reasons → production downtimes



# Current Practices

## Industrial practice

- High payload Industrial robot in fences
- No collaboration among varying resource types
- AGVs follow fixed navigation paths
- Production stops due to lack of consumables

Automated Guided Vehicles



Industrial robots in cages



## R&D practice

- Only low payload collaborative robots
- Mobile manipulators face poor acceptance in industrial settings
- Research on the individual parts neglecting real use cases
- Lack of perception abilities



Source: MM-500, Neobotix.



Collaborative low payload robots

## New Assembly paradigm

- Eliminated fixed tooling and jigs
- Flexible and exchangeable tooling
- Robot arms on mobile platforms
- Ability to collaborate with humans





## Mobile dual arm robotic workers with embedded cognition for hybrid reconfigurable manufacturing systems



Visit our website: [www.thomas-project.eu](http://www.thomas-project.eu)

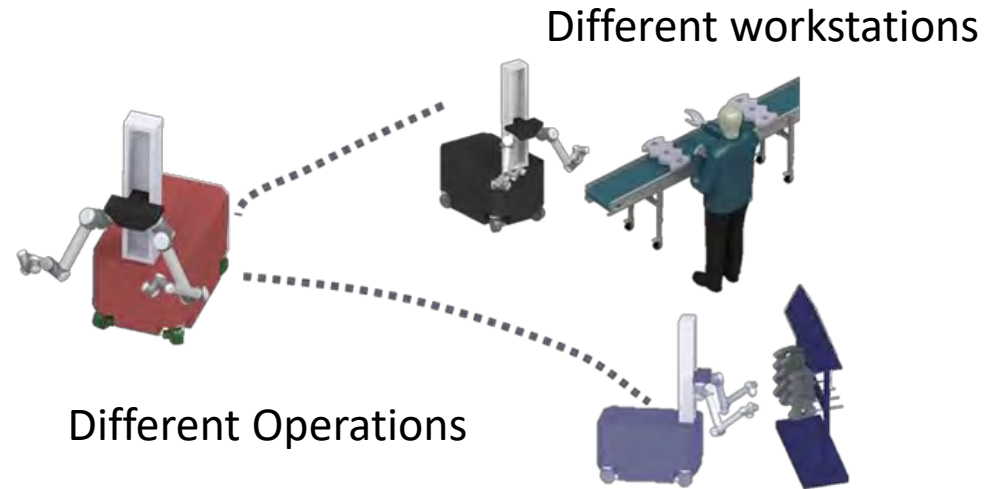


(Project Coordinator)

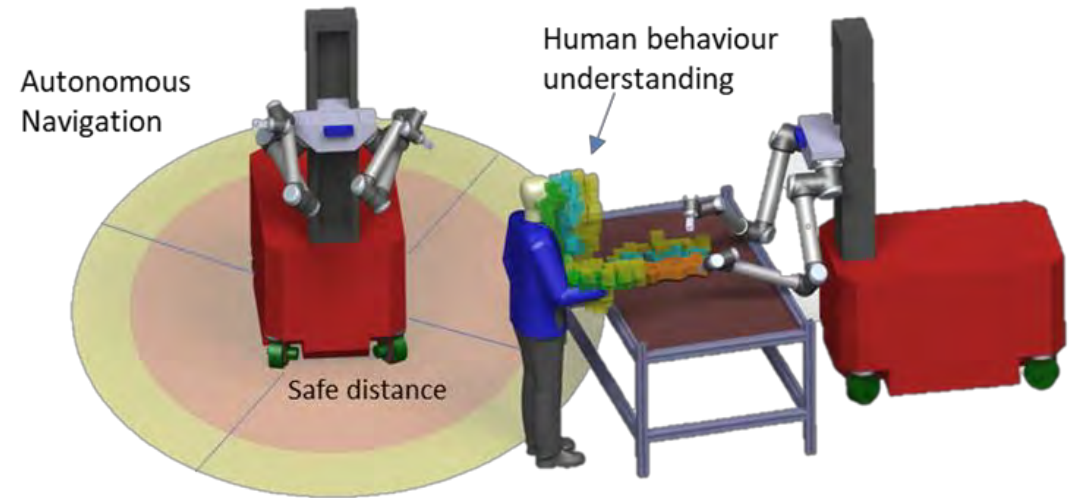


# Dynamic Reconfigurable Factories

## Flexible robot workers...

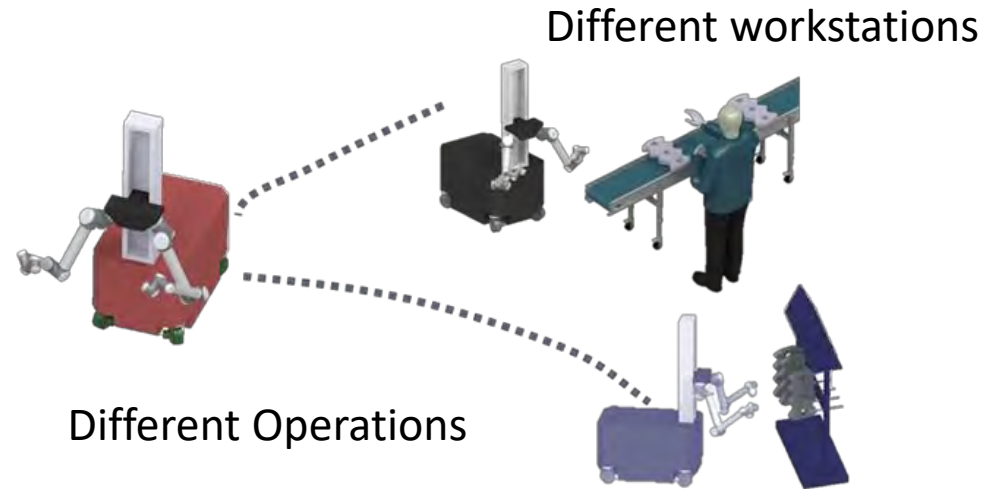


## ...acting as assistants to humans

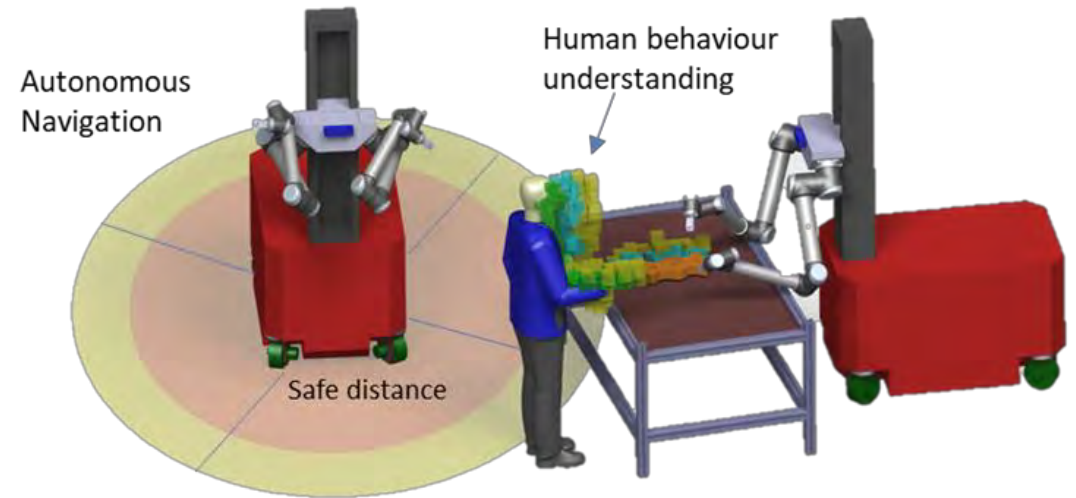


# Dynamic Reconfigurable Factories

## Flexible robot workers...

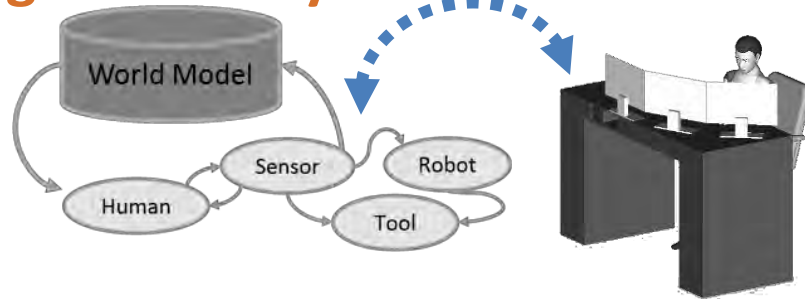


## ...acting as assistants to humans



## ... enabled by a Smart Robot Control System

### Digital Factory



### Artificial Intelligence



Dynamic Task Planning

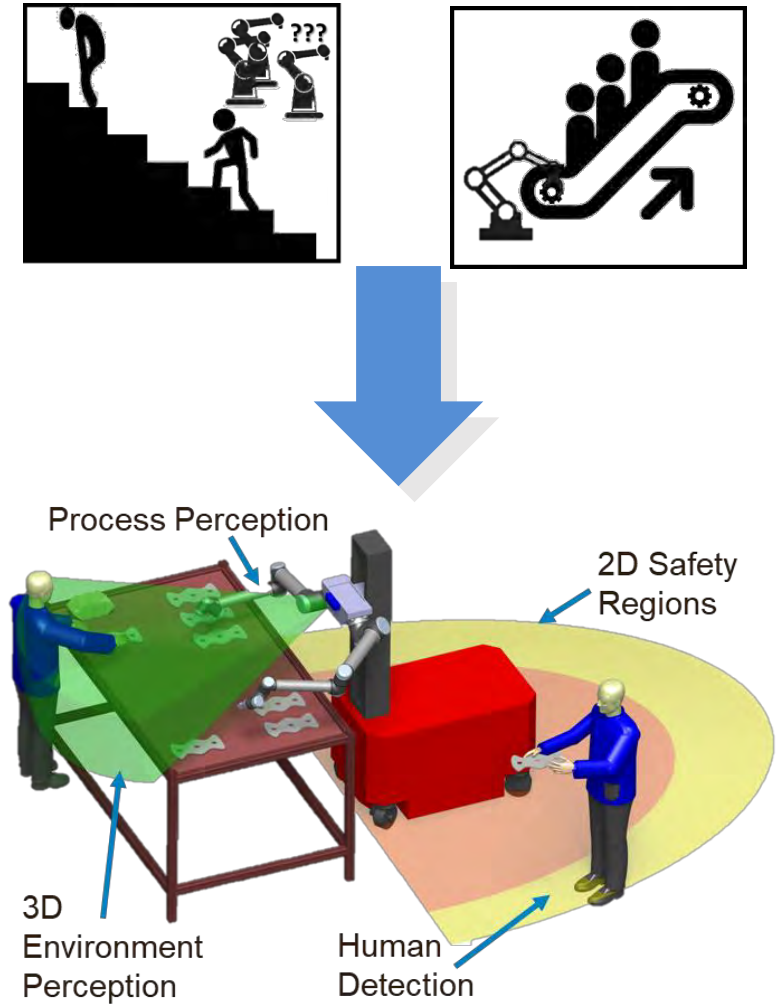
Human behaviour understanding

Robot Collision free trajectories

# Challenges

To enable system's **autonomy** and **reconfigurability** :

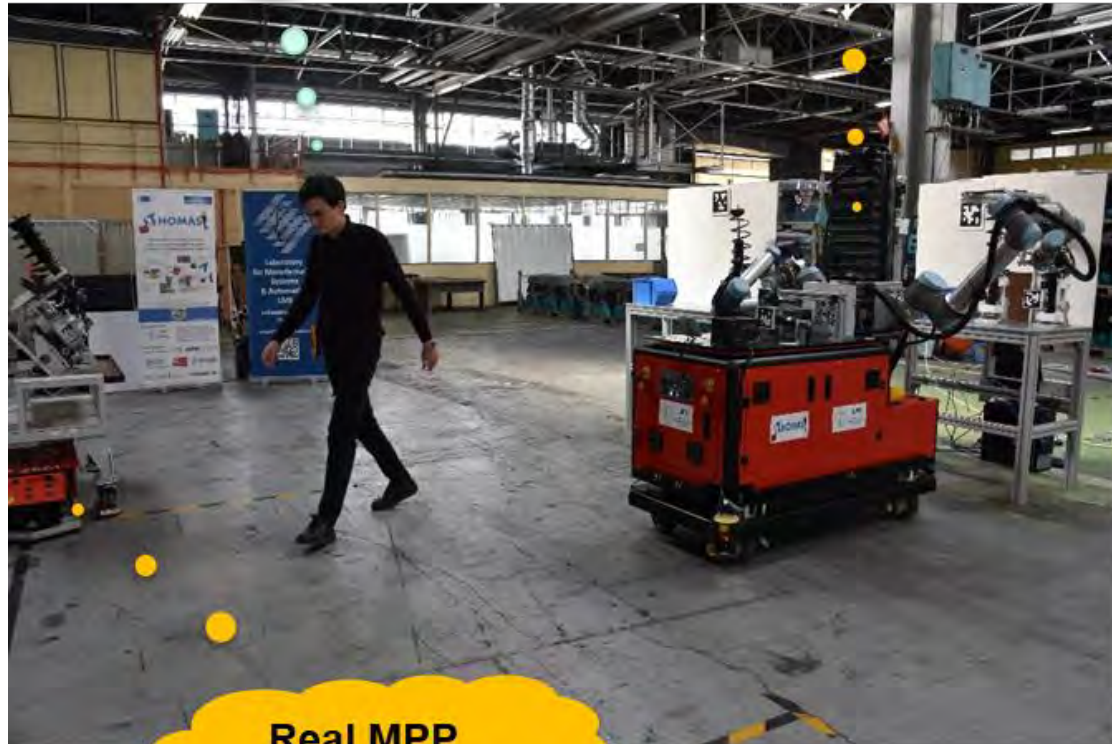
- Perception for the environment
- Perception for the process
- Perception for the human operators
- Where to find the required data?



# Digital Twin

Human Operator

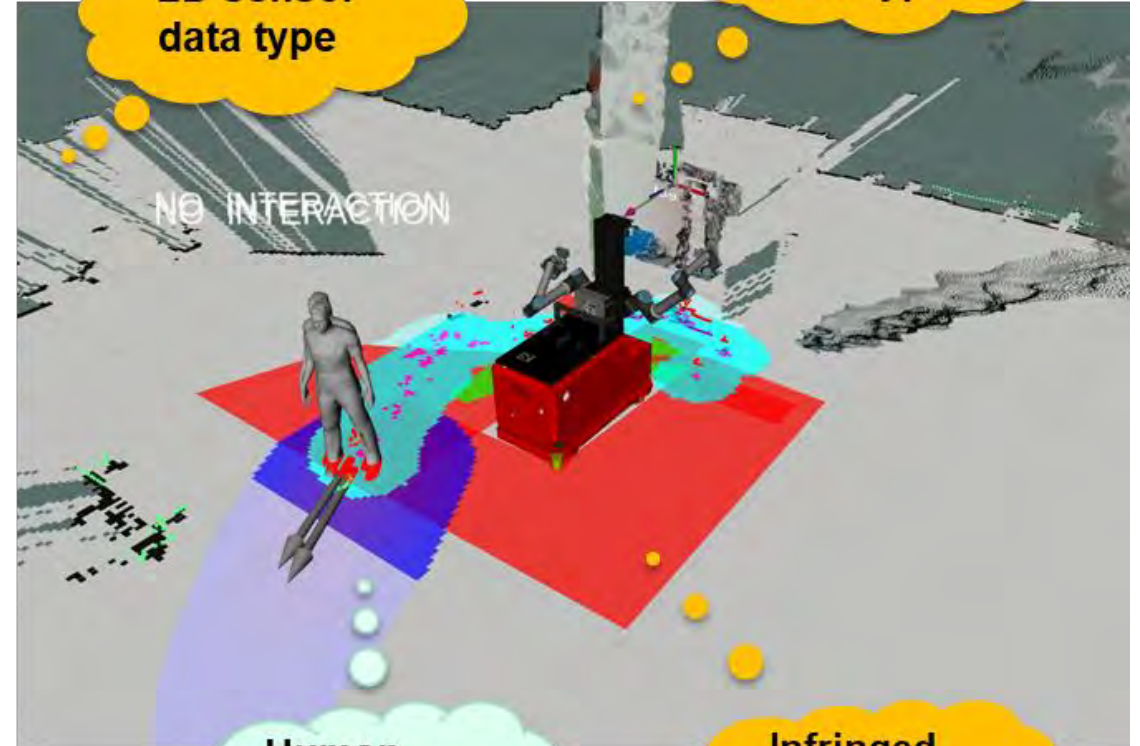
Real MRP



Real MPP

2D sensor data type

3D sensor data type



Human state data type

Infringed Protective Field

# Perception for the Environment

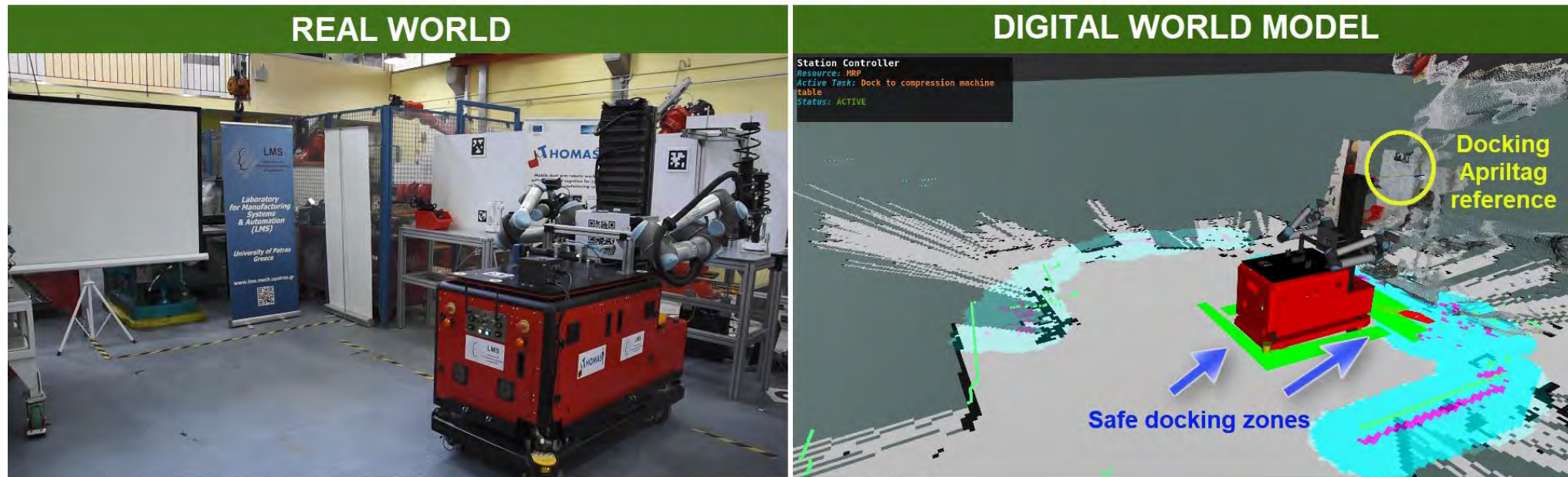
## Perception of the environment

**Navigation** (cell to cell) and **localization** (in-cell – safe)

**ACCURACY**  $\approx$  5 - 10 cm

**ACCURACY**  $\approx$  1 cm

## Safe Virtual Docking through 3D based localization





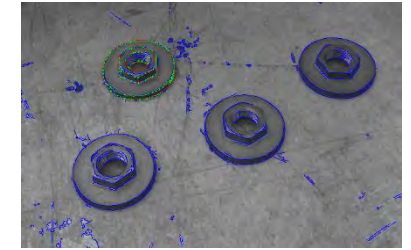
# Perception for the Process

End to end integration of:

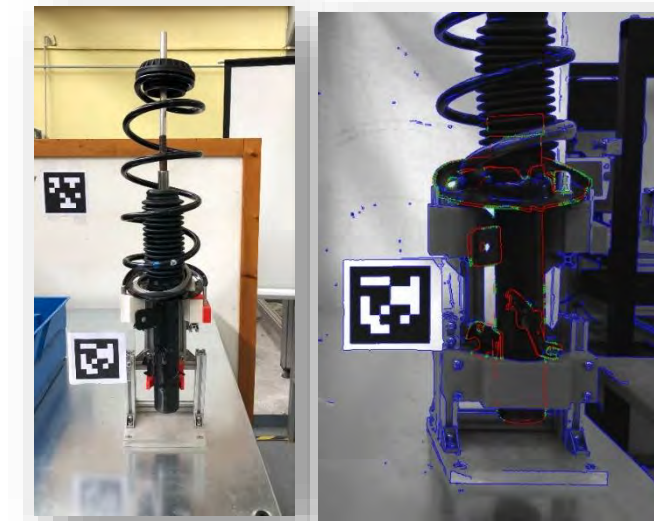
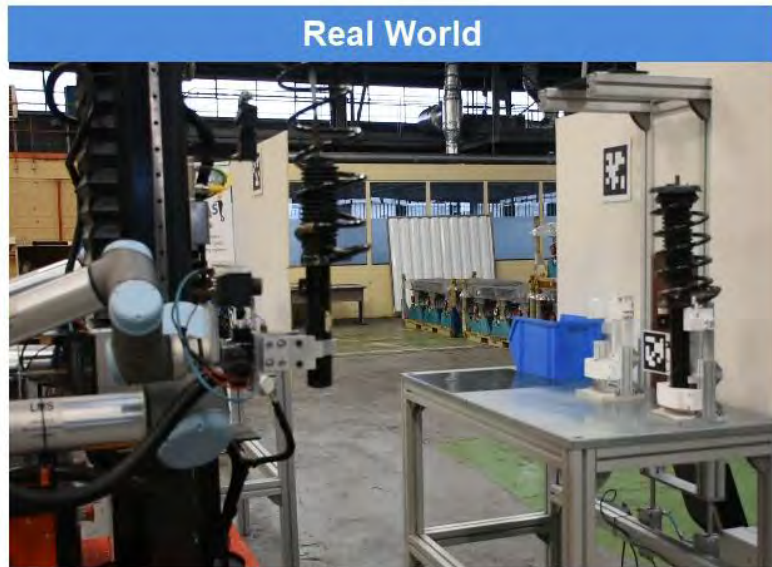
✓ **3D vision** systems enabling **process perception for manipulation**

**roboception**

**ACCURACY**  $\approx$  15 mm translation  
10 deg. rotation

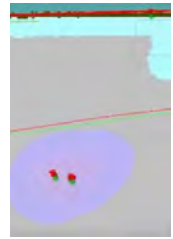


**Nuts**



**Pre-compressed damper's  
detection**

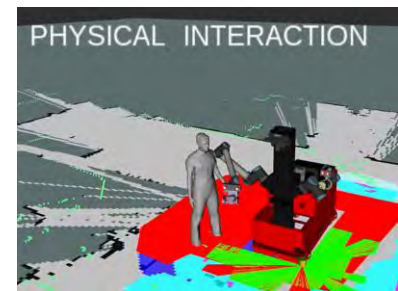
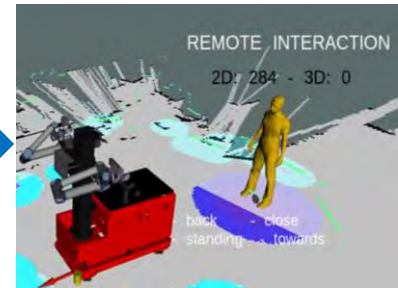
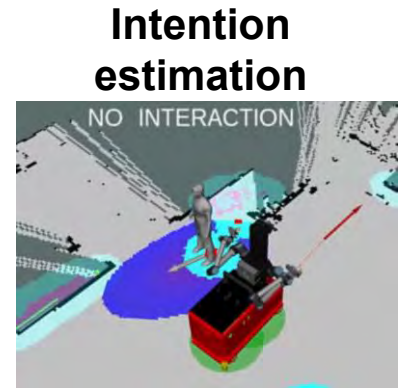
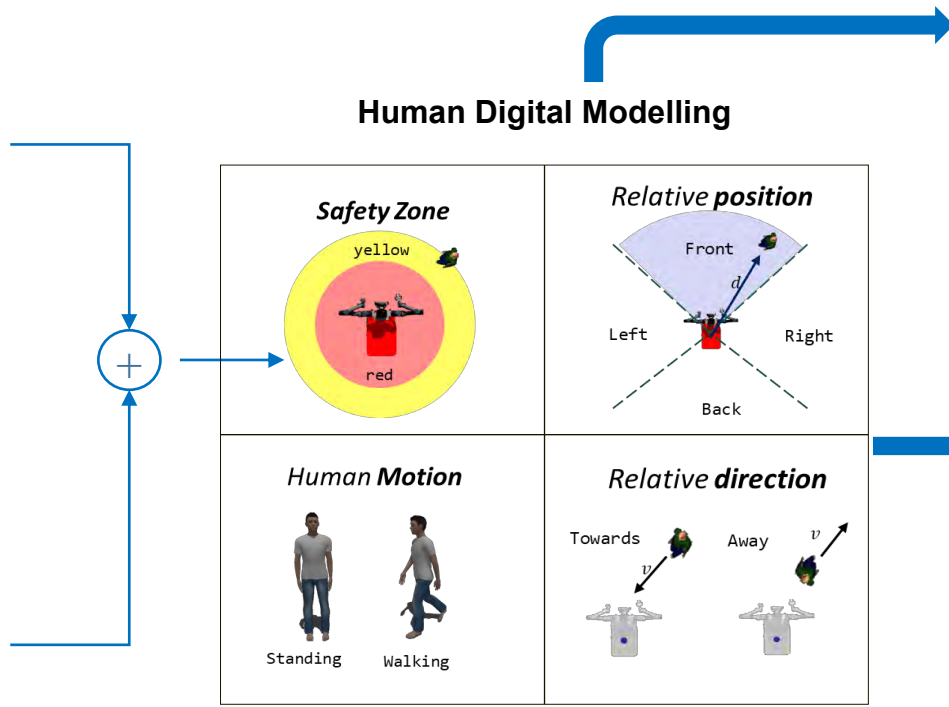
# Perception for the Human



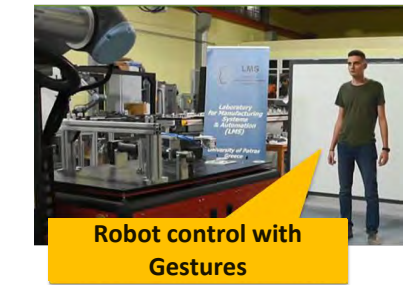
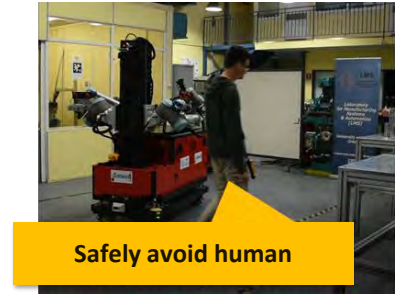
Human Leg Detection  
2D Information

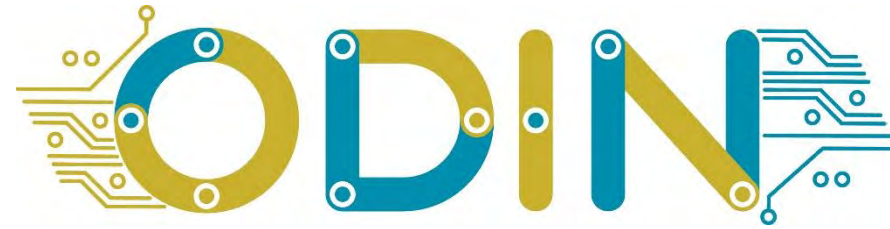


Human Skeleton Detection  
3D Information



## Interaction selection





Open – Digital – Industrial and Networking pilot lines using modular components for scalable production

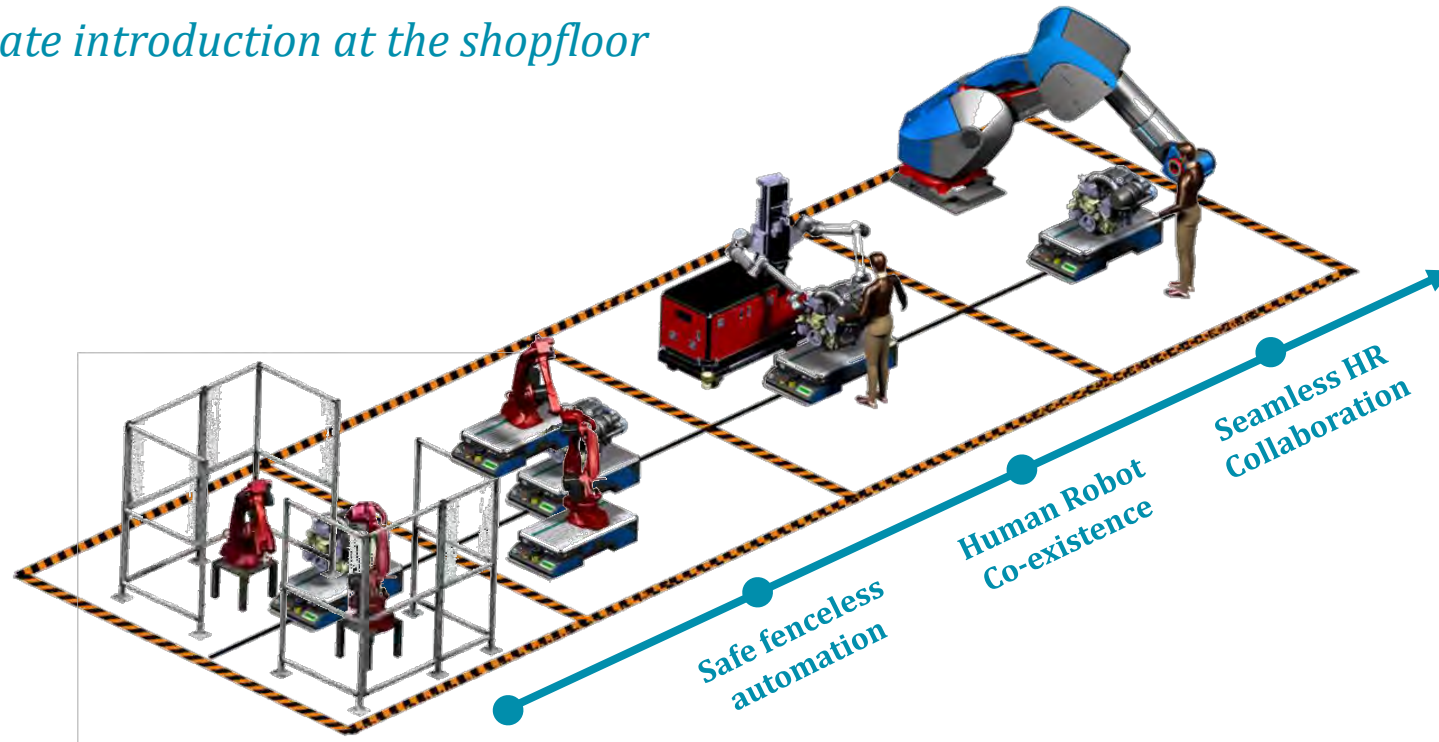


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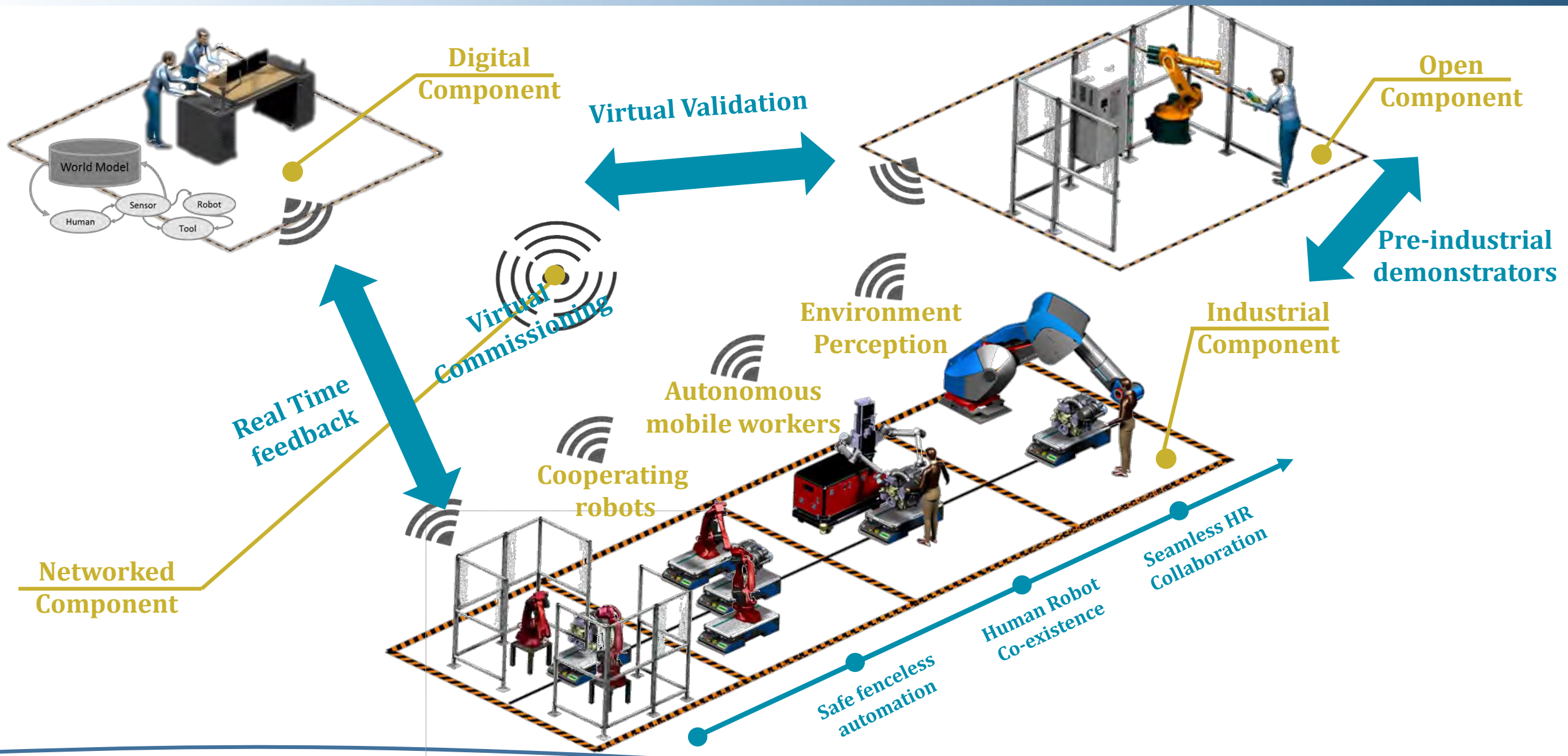


## How to integrate these modern robot capabilities?

ODIN vision is to *demonstrate that these modern robot capabilities are not only technically feasible, but also efficient and sustainable for immediate introduction at the shopfloor*



# ODIN Approach



# Thank you for your attention!



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University of Patras, Greece  
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# References

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## Round Table Discussion



ERF2022  
ROTTERDAM  
28-30 JUNE





## Applied AI Responds to Three Major Trends in Robotics

### #1

#### GOOD DATA INSTEAD OF BIG DATA REDUCES ONSITE TRAINING TIME

- Simulation helps create realistic training data using model-knowledge
- Ground truth can be used in the training
- Enrichment with data instead of data online
- Results in accuracy in mm and not detection rates in percent

### #2

#### SCALABLE ML SOFTWARE PLATFORM FOR PLUG-AND-PRODUCE

- Share resource by deployment concept
- Allow integrators and end customers to add modules on the same platform
- Smart Sensors allow for distribution of computing resources

### #3

#### USING ML TO ENSURE EASE-OF-USE FOR NON-VISION EXPERTS

- ML reduces the parameter space for the customer
- Web Interfaces with wizards allow for non-expert use

## Topic Group Perception

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Slides will be published on the website:

**<https://roboception.com/en/innovation-en/erf2022/>**

Interest in participating in TG Perception:

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and/or registration at

**<https://sparc-robotics-portal.eu/>**