CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY: ROBOTICS & AI

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Table Of Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 1. Market Analysis
- 1. Robotics & AI in Geotechnical Construction
- 1. Robotics & AI in Surveying
- 1. Robotics and AI in Safety
- 1. Robotics & AI in Project Management



Introduction



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3

Market Analysis



🔿 Tractica



Market Concentration



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Robotics and AI in Geotechnical Construction

https://railsystem.net/tunnel-boring-machine-tbm/

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Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM)

Recap: Constructed in situ, leaves surrounding and above ground undisturbed (unlike drilling & blasting)

Generally require human monitoring, recent technological developments in autonomizing

Use of TBM to drill U-55 in Berlin

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https://www.cat-bus.com/2018/01/far-from-boringmeet-the-most-interesting-tunnel-boringmachines/



How TBMs work

Cutter Driving System - rotating cutter head is pushed forward to tunnel through in-situ ground

Disc cutters - mounted on cutter head to cut and crush rock, cutters on outermost circumference need to be replaced more often.

Varying and unpredictable geological conditions - replacement of disc cutters requires **stop work**, reduces efficiency

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Case Study

Autonomous TBMs and Big Data - ASME, Kuala Lumpur

Mass Transit Rail Corporation - \$6 billion transit tunnel project

Development of variable-density TBM, works in soils of all types and consistencies - combination of Earth Pressure Balancing Machines and Slurry Machines

TBM is integrated with Big Data to automatically generate predictive and prescriptive analytics and insights

Traditionally rely on operators to control the steering system, advancement, excavation and slurry operations - AI and Big Data allow for the optimized efficiency and reduced human error



https://www.asme.org/topics-resources/content/big-data-spursautonomous-tunneling

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Robotics & Al in Surveying

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Drones:

A drone survey refers to the use of a drone, or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), to capture aerial data with downward-facing sensors, such as RGB or multispectral cameras, and LIDAR payloads.

During a drone survey with an RGB camera, the ground is photographed several times from different angles, and each image is tagged with coordinates.



Deliverables:



Orthomosaic Maps







Digital Surface Model

(DSM)

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https://wingtra.com/drone-mapping-applications/surveying-gis/

Deliverables:



Digital Terrain Model (DTS)





Contour Maps 3D Textured Mesh

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https://wingtra.com/drone-mapping-applications/surveying-gis/

Applications:

LAND SURVEYING/CARTOGRAPHY

LAND MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

STOCKPILE VOLUMETRIC MEASUREMENT

SLOPE MONITORING

URBAN PLANNING



Cadastral map overlaid on ariel image

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Volume measurement of Landfill in Bahamas



The length of the strokes represents the velocity of the earth movement. The longer the stroke, the faster the earth movement



https://wingtra.com/drone-mapping-applications/surveying-gis/

Process:



LEGAL PERMISSION

Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) regulations: users must obtain a Part 107 remote operator's license

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SOFTWARE

Choose a solution made specifically for your intended application. Eg. **mdMapper**: surveying and mapping

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Basic training on use of the aircraft, flight planning, safety, and other necessary skills.



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http://depts.washington.edu/pactrans/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-S-OSU-82_Dan-Gillins_Cost-Effective-Bridge.pdf

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Connection of a steel member to a concrete tower

Missing bolt-nut

Cracking of a concrete railing



20

http://depts.washington.edu/pactrans/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-S-OSU-82_Dan-Gillins_Cost-Effective-Bridge.pdf



https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/2602167/Marketing%20Collaterals/Inspection%20of%20Wastewater%20Infrastructure%20with%20Fly ability's%20Elios%20Solution.pdf

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Mission pictures taken by Elios

https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/2602167/Marketing%20Collaterals/Inspection%20of%20Wastewater%20Infrastructure%20with% 20Flyability's%20Elios%20Solution.pdf

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Advantages



http://depts.washington.edu/pactrans/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-S-OSU-82_Dan-Gillins_Cost-Effective-Bridge.pdf https://www.heliguy.com/pages/drones-for-construction#drones-in-construction https://guestwritershub.com/2021/01/10/the-pros-and-cons-of-using-drones-for-aerial-surveying/

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Disadvantages



http://depts.washington.edu/pactrans/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-S-OSU-82_Dan-Gillins_Cost-Effective-Bridge.pdf https://www.heliguy.com/pages/drones-for-construction#drones-in-construction https://guestwritershub.com/2021/01/10/the-pros-and-cons-of-using-drones-for-aerial-surveying/

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DOT	Traffic	Structural	Construction	Other
	Monitoring	Inspection	Site Inspection	Applications
Arkansas	Х			
California				Х
Connecticut		Х	•	
Florida		Х		
Georgia	Х			
Michigan	Х	Х		Х
Minnesota		Х		
North Carolina				Х
Ohio		Х		Х
Texas				Х
Utah			Х	
Washington	Х			Х
West Virginia	Х		Х	

Example usage of UAS in various departments of transportation

http://depts.washington.edu/pactrans/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-S-OSU-82_Dan-Gillins_Cost-Effective-Bridge.pdf

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Robotics and Al in Safety

Construction Fatalities

According to the US Bureau of Labor

Statistics, construction worker fatalities

rose 5% in 2019, totaling 1,061 deaths

Number of fatal work injuries in the construction industry by selected event or exposure, all ownerships, 2015–19



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2021/fatal-and-nonfatal-falls-slips-and-trips-in-the-constructionindustry.htm#:~:text=Bureau%20of%20Labor%20Statistics,-

The%20Economics%20Daily&text-There%20were%201%2C102%20fatal%20injuries the%20I Inited%20States%20(5%2C333)

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Hierarchy of Controls

•Framework according to the

National Institute for

Occupational Safety and Health



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Example of hierarchy

Type of Control	Example of fall prevention		
Elimination	Complete work at ground level instead of working at heights		
Substitution	Use a lift to get into a position to work at heights instead of physically climbing		
Engineering Control	Provide a safe working platform, scaffold, install guard rails, edge protection, catch- nets		
Administrative Control	Employee training, alarms, job rotation, warnings, signage, permit to work systems		
PPE	Wearing safety harness, inertia reel, high visibility vest, hard hats and safety shoes		

Artificial Intelligence for Construction Safety: Mitigation of the Risk of Fall: Proceedings of the 2018 Intelligent Systems Conference (IntelliSys) Volume 2

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Challenges implementing hierarchy

Unidentified Hazards

Uncontrollable Situation

Lack of information sharing across projects

Lack of resources on smaller projects

Lack of current industry publications for reference

Lack of full-time safety department, subjective nature of hazard identification and risk assessment

Lack of standardized approach and unidentified structures for tasks and hazards

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Hazard Identification



Whirlwind Team.: BIM for Construction Site Safety: how to Identify and Prevent Hazards. Retrieved 10 Jan 2018, from https://www.whirlwindsteel.com/blog/bim-for-constructionsite-safety-how-to-identify-and-prevent-hazards (2016, April 20)

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Framework of Al platform



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Expected Outcome of Programme

BIM

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Documents Generated

SI No	Hazards Identified	Risk	Area	Acknowledged by	OSHA Standards applicable	Measures taken	Close-out
1	Leading edge	Fall	Level-1, S1	Suprintendent	<u>1926.501(b)(1)</u>	Guardrails of height 1.2m, with intermedita rails at 1.2m and toe board of 200mm provided	04-06-2017
2	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C1		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
3	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C2		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
4	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C3		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
5	Leading edge	Fall	Level-1, S2		<u>1926.501(b)(1)</u>		
6	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C4		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
7	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C5		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
8	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C6		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
9	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C7		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
10	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C8		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
11	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C9		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
12	Work at height	Fall	Level-1, Column C10		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
13	Leading edge	Fall	Level-1, S3		<u>1926.502(a)(1)</u>		
14	Slab opening	Fall	Level-1, S1		<u>1926.501(b)(4)(i)</u>		
15	Slab Opening	Fall	Level-1, S1		<u>1926.501(b)(4)(i)</u>		

Artificial Intelligence for Construction Safety: Mitigation of the Risk of Fall: Proceedings of the 2018 Intelligent Systems Conference (IntelliSys) Volume 2

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Barista, D.: BIM for Safety: how to Use BIM/VDC Tools to Prevent Injuries on the Job Site.

Retrieved 10 Jan 2018, from https://www.bdcnetwork.com/bim-safety-how-use-bimvdctools-prevent-injuries-job-site (2015, February 8)

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Example

Turner Construction uses Solibri Model Checker



Barista, D.: BIM for Safety: how to Use BIM/VDC Tools to Prevent Injuries on the Job Site.

Retrieved 10 Jan 2018, from https://www.bdcnetwork.com/bim-safety-how-use-bimvdctools-prevent-injuries-job-site (2015, February 8)

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Common Safety Check at Turner

- Material storage locations, and their proximity to fire hydrants and adjacent structures
- Design criteria for the ramps on the site, including slope, landing distances at the top and bottom, and entrance and exit locations
- Location, size, and timeline of temporary job site hazards—floor penetrations, perimeter protection areas, etc.—and the materials required for protection
- Requirements for erosion and sedimentation control
- Equipment and egress requirements by phase
- Pedestrian protection measures

Barista, D.: BIM for Safety: how to Use BIM/VDC Tools to Prevent Injuries on the Job Site.

Retrieved 10 Jan 2018, from https://www.bdcnetwork.com/bim-safety-how-use-bimvdctools-prevent-injuries-job-site (2015, February 8)

Limitations

- AI + BIM has not been explored.
- Extensive effort is required to prepare this program.
- Acceptance from construction industry.



Robotics & Al in Project Management

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Need for Robots in Project management and Scheduling



How Does It Work?

- Autonomous devices to scan every inch of a site on a daily basis with LIDAR and HD cameras.
- Proprietary AI algorithm processes the visual data, inspects installation quality, and quantifies
- Cloud-based dashboard ingests data on person-hours spent on the job, compares it to progress measured by AI and predicts a project's cost-atcompletion and completion date based on current productivity





Types of Equipment





Company Producing: Doxel

Company Producing: BuildBot and Doxel

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Expected Outcome of Programme

BIM + AI



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About Doxel

- Doxel is an artificial intelligence startup founded in 2016 by Saurabh Ladha (CEO) and Robin Singh (CTO). It is developing an AI-Powered Project Controls solution for the construction sector.
- Doxel is the only solution on the market that can take video footage of a job site, 3D blueprints, a project budget, and a project timeline and tell clients exactly how much progress has been made on their job site today and how much progress will be made in the future in real time.
- The business uses a variety of ML models of varying complexity, ranging from simple heuristics to Graph Neural Networks (GNN), which are specifically designed to compare mesh and point cloud data.





Case Study 1



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Advantages



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Disadvantages









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49

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