

## DOCKETED

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C A L I F O R N I A   E N E R G Y   C O M M I S S I O N

# **Real-Time Active Pipeline Integrity Detection Plus System for Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Management**

**Agreement No. PIR-14-015**

**PI: Howard Chung, PhD, PE**

**Acellent Technologies, Inc.**

**Natural Gas Infrastructure Safety and Integrity Research  
Program Workshop**

**California Energy Commission**

**1516 9<sup>th</sup> St., Sacramento, CA**

**July 7, 2017**



**RAPID+**



# Outline

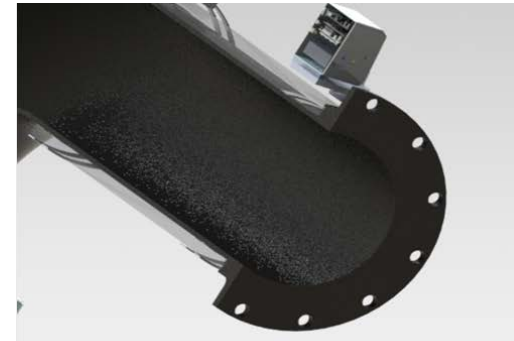
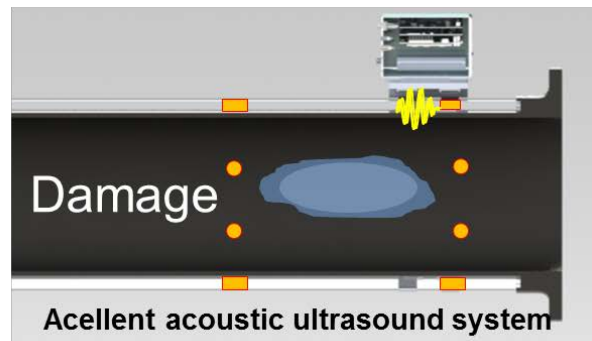
- **Background and Motivation for PIR-14-015 Program**
- **Project Scope**
- **Technology Development Progress and Readiness**
- **Field Test Plan with Utilities, Installation Procedures**
- **Timelines**



## Background

- There are multiple threats on the pipeline right of way (ROW). Third party excavator damage is the primary threat
- In this program, Acellent enhances its real-time active pipeline integrity detection(RAPID) system into the RAPID+ system to provide early detection of incidental or intentional encroachment events that threaten the gas pipeline network in the ground and support the near field measurement of the severity of damage caused by the encroachment events.

# RAPID for Corrosion Damage Detection



Lamb wave-based acoustic  
sensor network

Historical Data



Continuous  
Scanning



Monitor Damage  
Growth Rate



RAPID



**Real-time Active Pipeline Integrity Detection System (RAPID)**

## RAPID for Corrosion Damage Monitoring

**Straight pipe installation**



**Bend Pipe Installation**



Posted on July 14, 2014

### PG&E Testing New Monitoring Technology for Gas Pipelines

By Debbie Felix

**SAN RAMON** – At its Applied Technology Services facilities, PG&E recently coordinated a demonstration of new technology the company has been testing for its natural gas pipeline system. Developed by Silicon Valley-based Acellent Technologies Inc., the Real-time Active Pipeline Integrity Detection (RAPID) sensor system was designed to remotely monitor the structural health of pipelines by identifying potential concerns such as corrosion, cracks or other damage.

Tiny sensors embedded between strips of flexible film, which are wrapped around the outside of steel pipes, could one day provide PG&E with real-time, detailed information about the condition of its pipelines, especially in locations that are particularly susceptible to damage. By sending and receiving ultrasonic waves through the thickness of the pipeline steel to a data acquisition box installed on the pipe, PG&E's gas operations' engineers will get an advance warning when the condition of a pipe changes.

"The RAPID technology could one day transmit an alert in real-time to our engineers when it detects damage to a pipeline", said François Rongere, PG&E's research & development and innovation manager in gas operations. "This assures a faster response and repair time."

At the demonstration in San Ramon, two simulated corrosion cells of varying sizes and depths were installed on a test pipe using a plasma cutter. During the demonstration, Acellent's RAPID system located, measured and identified the depth of the corrosion cells. As a next step, PG&E will verify the accuracy of RAPID's findings using a laser scanner.



A data acquisition box sits atop a test pipe wrapped with sensors and covered with protective fiberglass (yellow bands) as part of new technology to remotely monitor pipeline health.





# Project Goals of PIR-14-015

- Finish the engineering work for the integration of event detection sensing mechanisms to the real-time active pipeline integrity detection system framework
- Deploy and Demonstrate the system that can detect ROW encroachments and alert operators in real time
- Three technology areas will be applied during this project:
  - Stationary sensors mounted on the pipe surface to provide continuous monitoring of any intrusive event
  - Proactive acoustic and vibration sensors near the pipeline field to discriminate the potential threat of excavation event before getting to touch the pipe
  - Active corrosion monitoring SHM system
- This project aims to work with utility companies for field tests and validation
- Evaluation of project benefits



## Project Collaborators of PIR-14-015

- Sponsorship and Oversight
  - California Energy Commission
- Technical Direction and Oversight
  - Acellent Technologies, Inc.
- Utility Test sites
  - Pacific Gas and Electric
  - Southern California Gas





# Acellent Encroachment Detection System

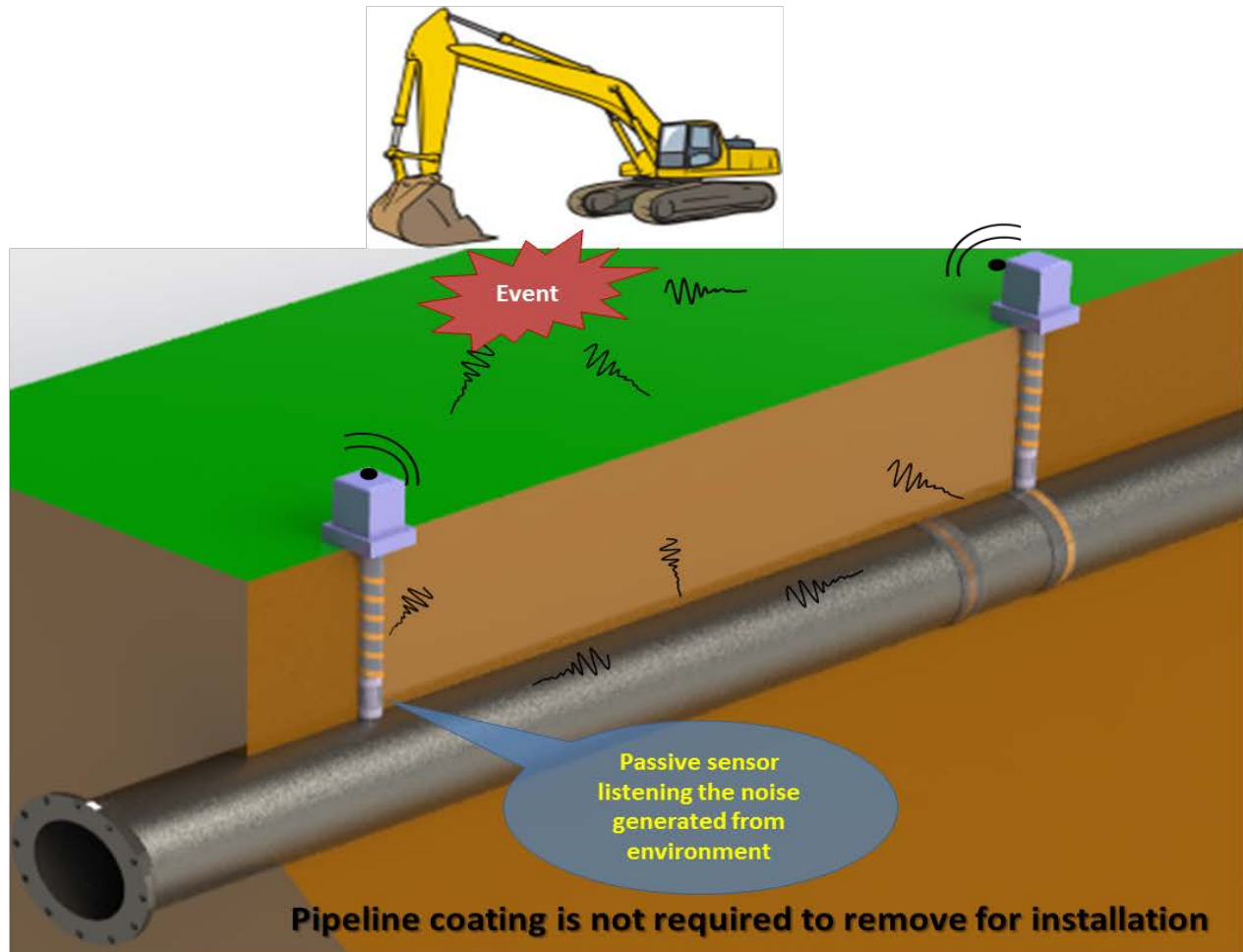
Acoustic sensors receive the noise created by environment abnormal activity

Underground sensors near the pipeline can map out the location and distance from the pipeline

Installation is easy and not required to remove existing pipeline protection/coating materials

Passive sensing and wireless communication enable mass- distribution to a large service area

**RAPID+**





## Overall Project Timeline

- Project Initiation: June, 2015
- Scoping Requirements and Planning: Q2 2015 to Q4 2015
- Development of Engineering Work: Q4 2015 to Q3 2016
- Laboratory and Pre-field Tests: Q3 2016 to Q4 2016
- Engineering Work for System Integration: Q4 2016 to Q2 2017
- Deploy Event Detection (RAPID+) sensors starting Q3, 2017
  - Each utility has up to 10 end points and 2 access points available
  - Piggy back on current or near future construction projects
- Begin data collection and visualization Q3-Q4, 2017
  - The data will be flowed to a central server
  - The dashboard view will be available to utilities for testing
- Final report to CEC in Q1-Q2, 2018
  - Provide assessment of technology and recommendations

## Case Studies

- Non-attended encroachment to right-of-way on natural gas pipeline field cause catastrophic event
- Proactive and early warning to detect encroachment event system is in demand

### Case Study: Cleburne Texas on 6/7/2010





## Encroachment Detection Priorities

Priorities	Description	Requirement Sensitivity
<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Most Severe &amp; High Risk to cause failure</b>	The event has uncovered the pipeline to air and impact from excavation tool to the surface of the pipe is made. High risk to cause pipeline failure and catastrophic event	Detection of impact from the minor impact can prevent the catastrophic event from severe structural failure. The system must detect completely.
<b>Priority 2</b> <b>Moderate Risk Event</b>	The event shows the encroachment is in progress, such as machine or manual digging nearby the field. Moderate risk to cause any serious result without attention.	Detection of activities nearby the pipeline field is required to discriminate what kind of activity, and provide immediate alert to the responder against the violation event.
<b>Priority 3</b> <b>Low Risk Event</b>	Unidentified object may approach the right of way in distance. Potential to become an encroachment event. Low risk to cause problem.	Detection of such activity is not required. The distance in Priority 3 event will be defined as the outer bound of detection sensitivity.

**RAPID+**





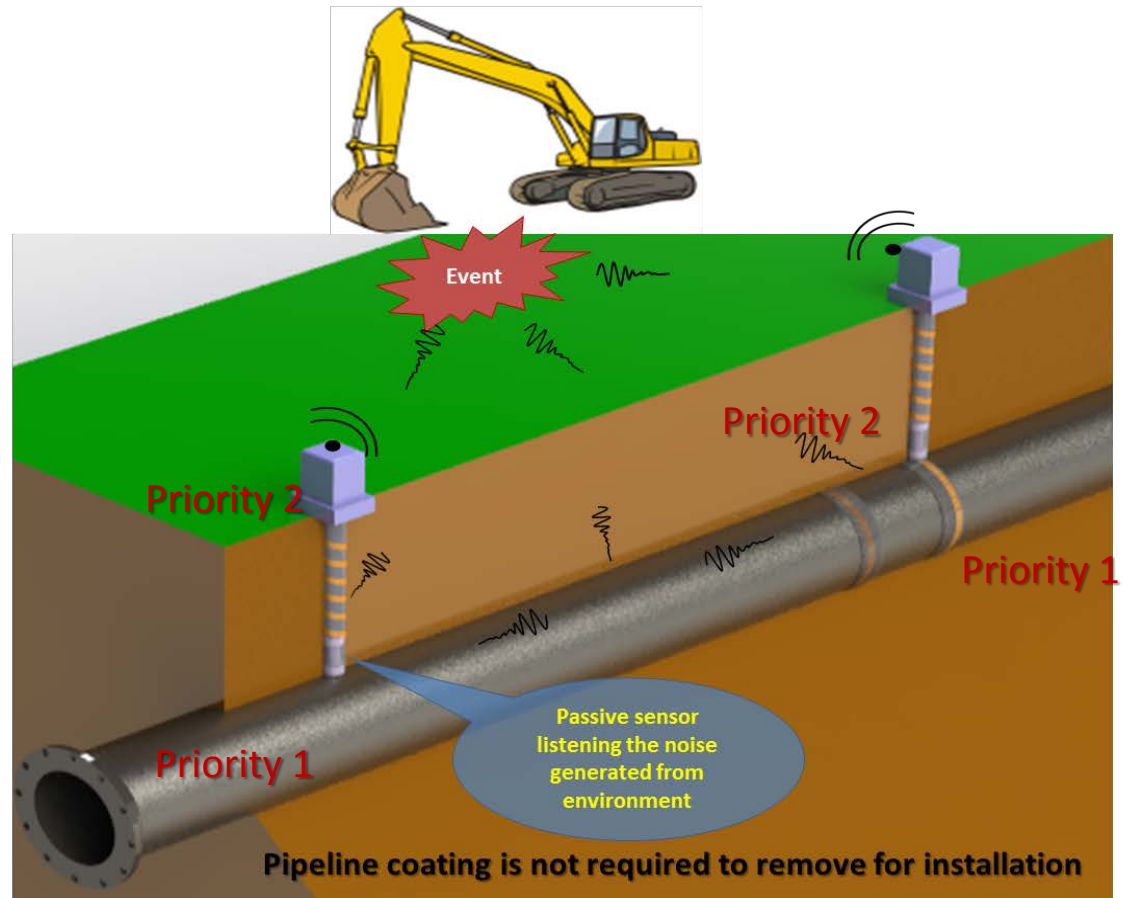
# RAPID+ System for Encroachment Detection

Acoustic sensors receive the noise created by environment abnormal activity

Underground sensors near the pipeline can map out the location and distance from the pipeline

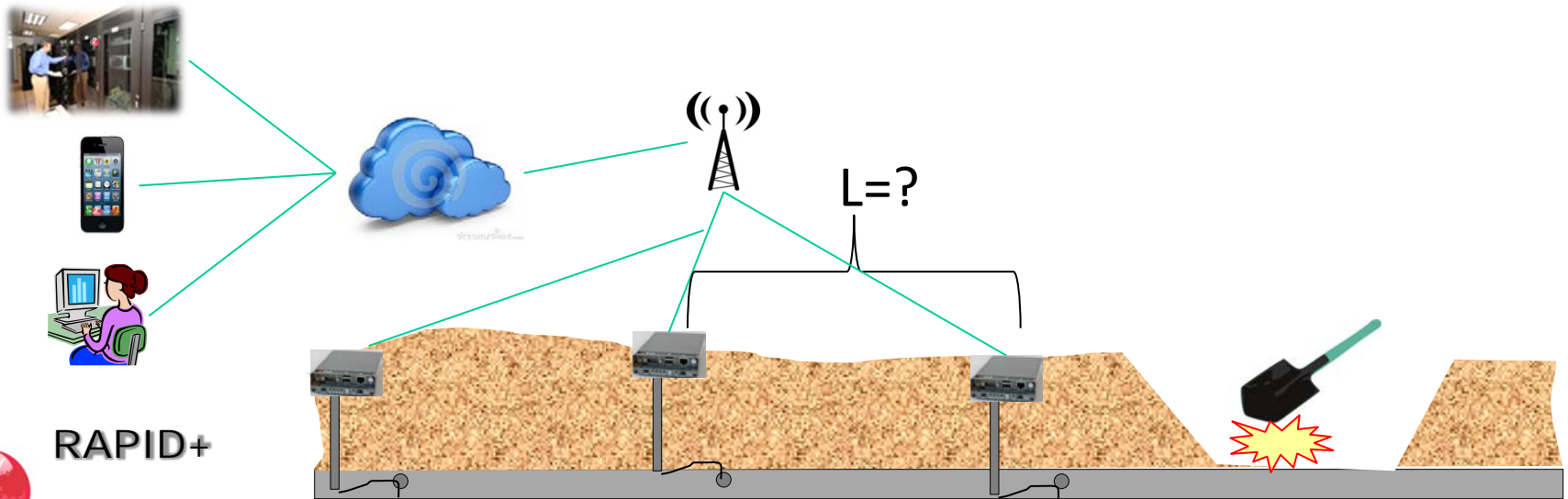
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# Method of Priority 1 Detection

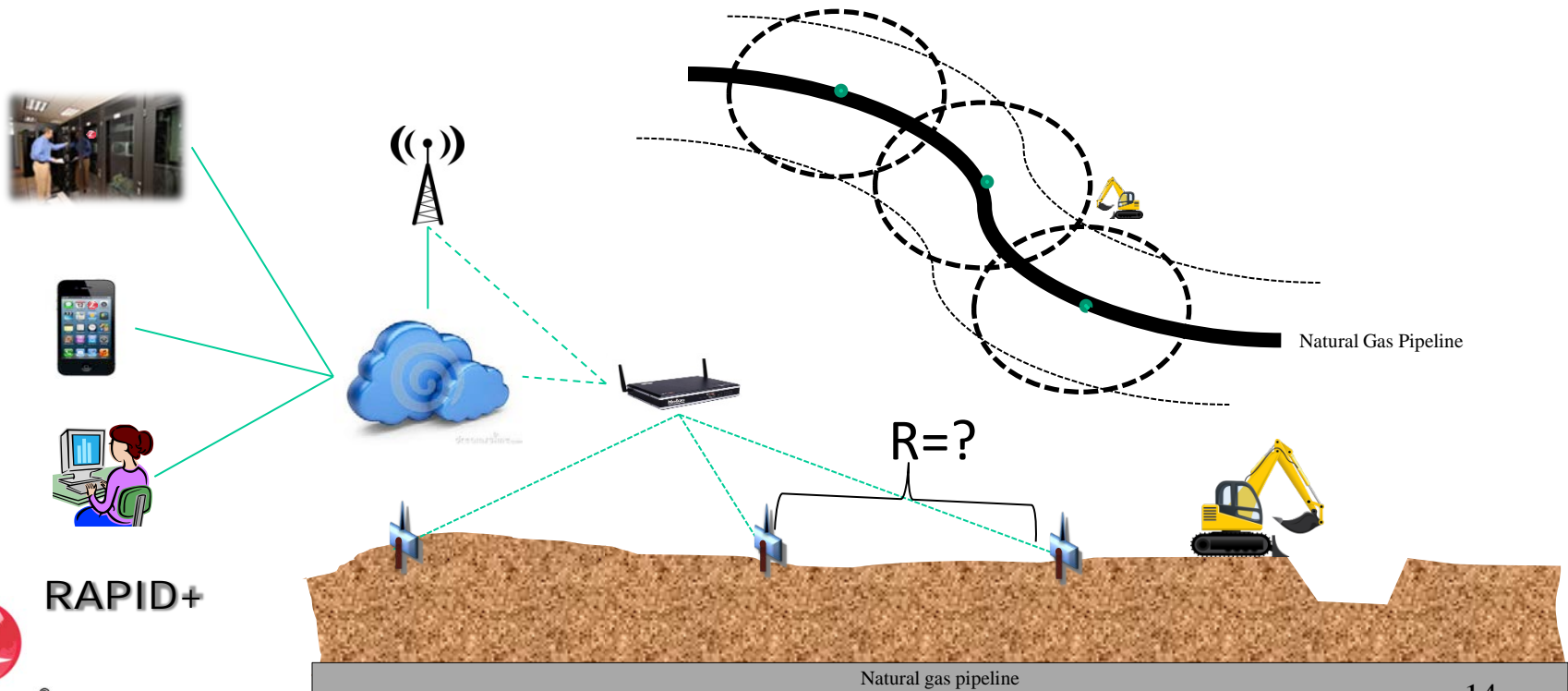
- Passive system to listen to the impact event
  - Sensor: 0.25" diameter round PZT sensors
  - Hardware: IMGenie™ System
  - Event Detection Technique:
    - Show wave propagation distance v.s. impact energy





## Priority 2 Event Detection Sensors

- Active system to listen to the monitoring pipeline fields
  - Microphone Sensors
  - Low Power Embedded MCU with wireless comm. stations
  - Event Detection Technique:
    - Frequency discrimination method to detect encroachment event in progress





## System Setup for Impact Energy and Wave Propagation Distance Tests



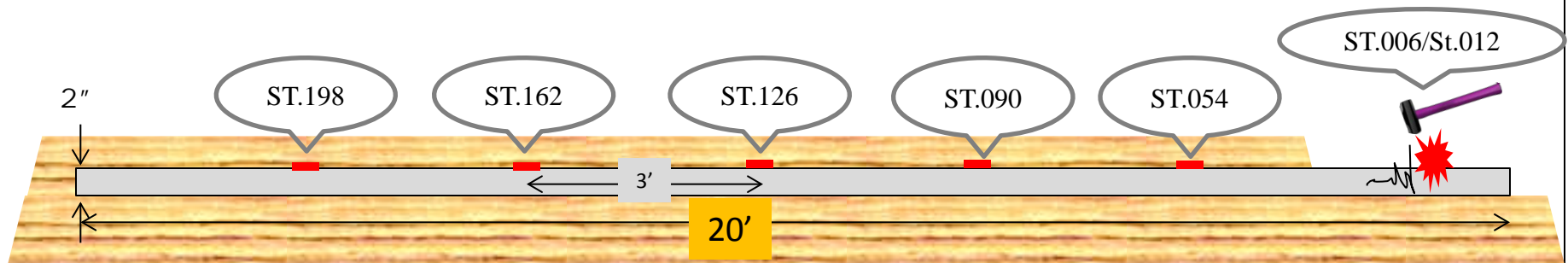


# Test Procedures

## Case 1.

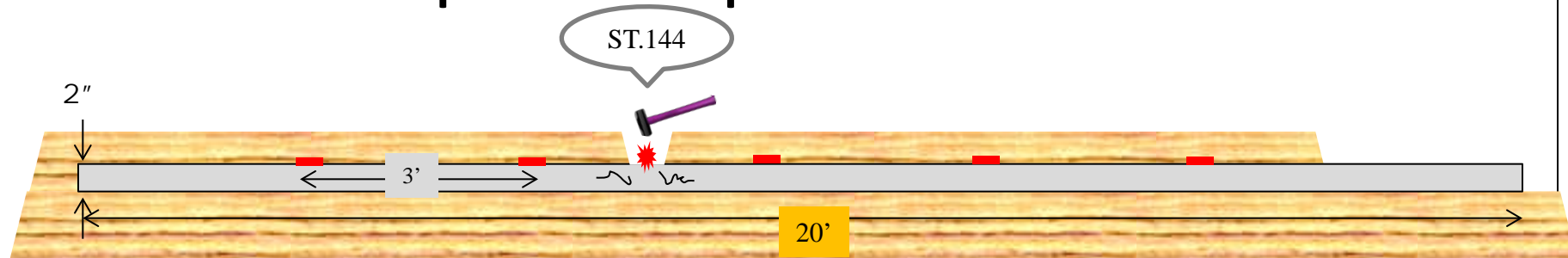
Impact at the open surface St.006 and St.012

"Stack ID: Inches"



## Case 2.

Impact at the open surface St. 144



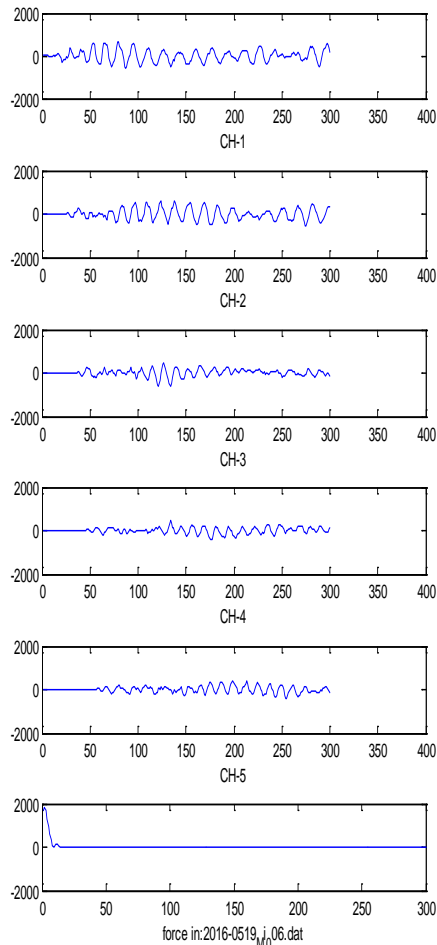


# Test Data Overview



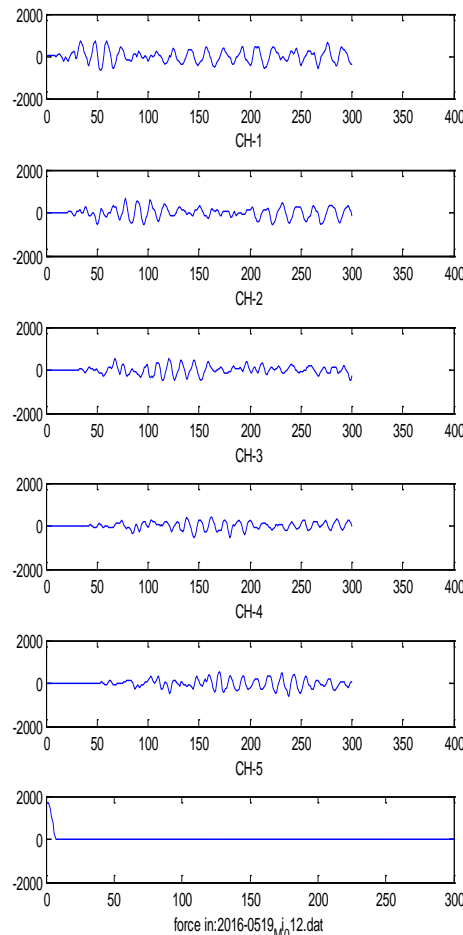
## In warehouse

## Underground



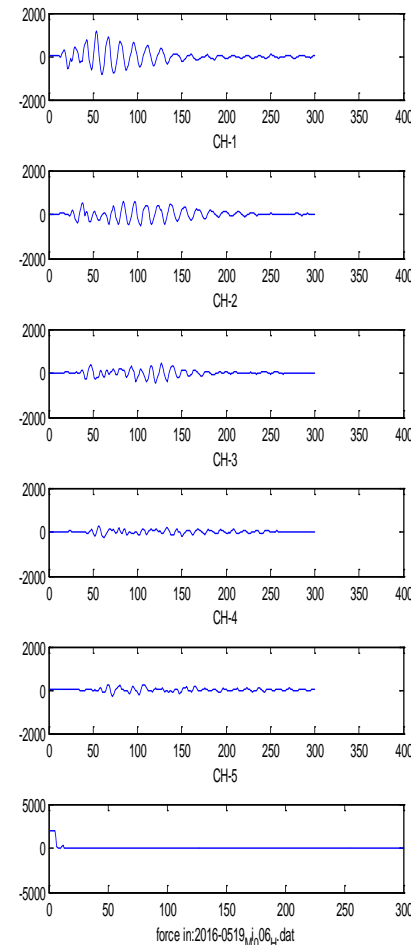
force in:2016-0519\_M06.dat

Imp@006



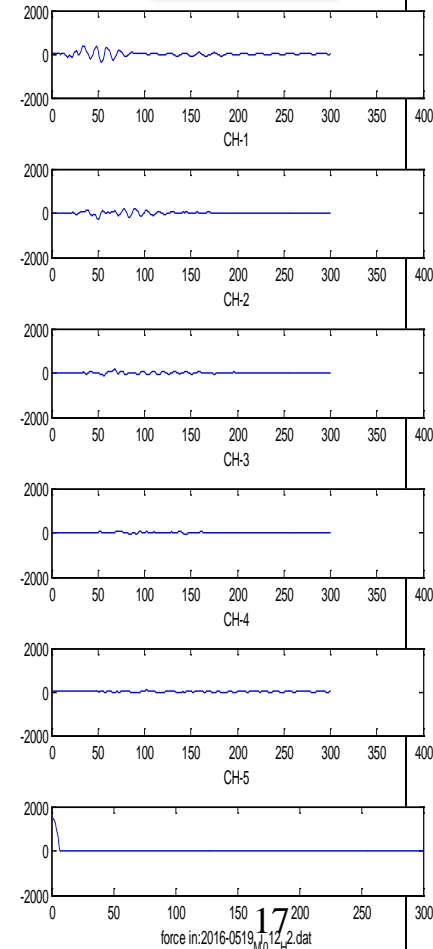
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Imp@012



force in:2016-0519\_M06.dat

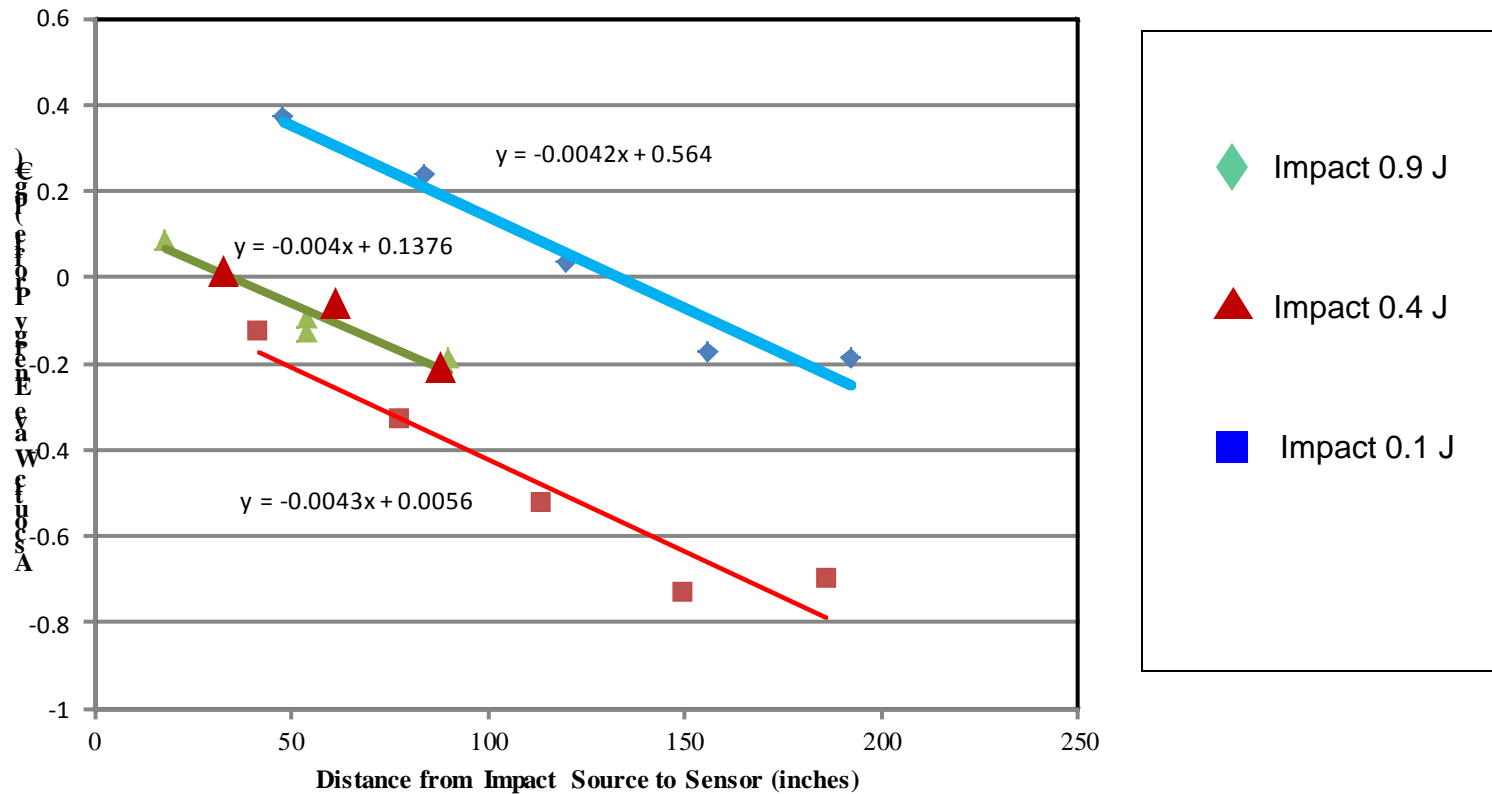
Imp@006



force in:2016-0519\_M012.dat

Imp@012

## Acoustic Energy Profile in Log Scale v.s. Distance at Different Impact Energies



RAPID+

$$\text{Log}(E) = -0.0042 L + 5.8 \{ \Sigma f \Delta t \}^2 / 2 \rho A_c$$

a                      b



# Summary of Priority 1 Sensor

$$\text{Log}(E) = -0.0042 L + 5.8 \{ \Sigma f \Delta t \}^2 / 2 \rho A_c$$

*Propagation Range:*

$$L = 5.8 \{ \Sigma f \Delta t \}^2 / 0.0084 \rho A_c - \text{Log}(E)$$

*Therefore,*

$$L = 1381 E_i - \text{Log}(E_o)$$

*Usually,*

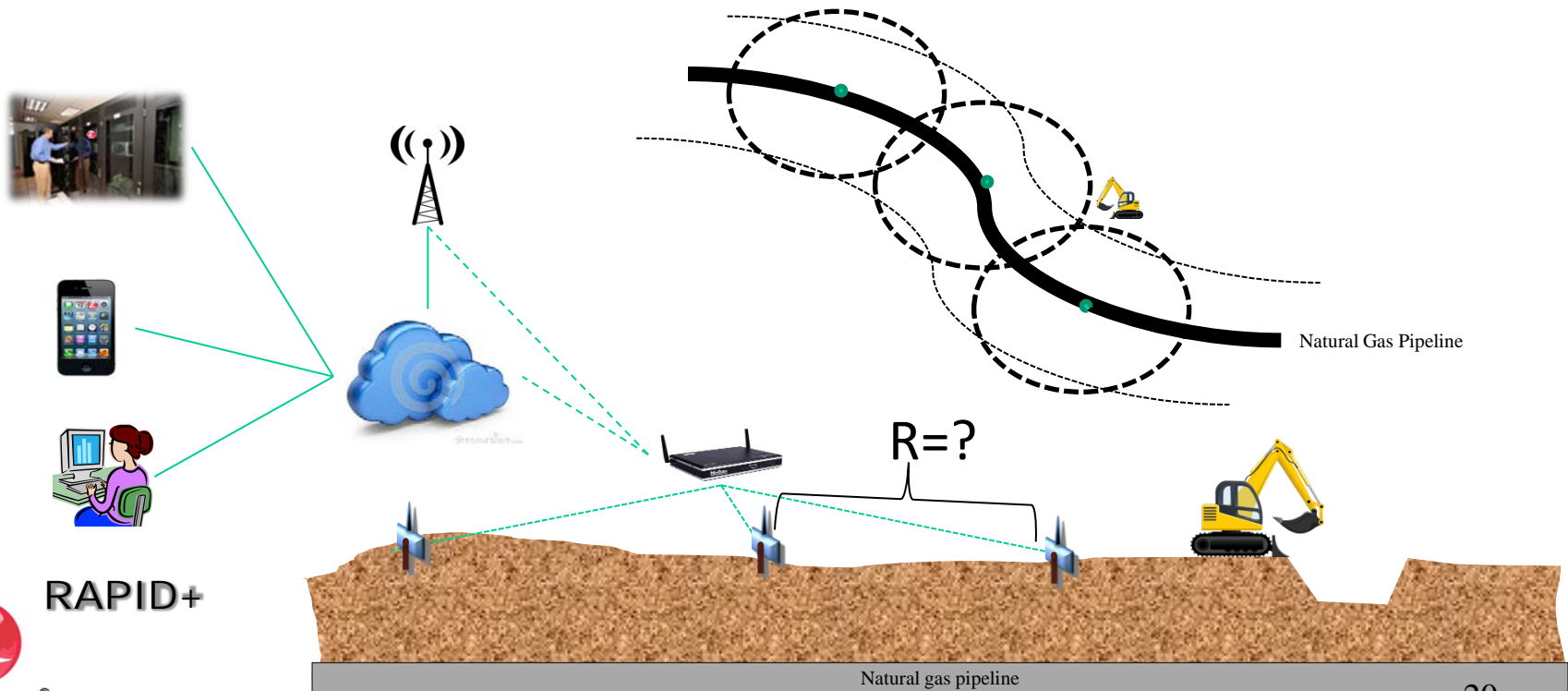
$$E_o = \phi E_i \quad \text{where } \phi \text{ is a reduction factor } \ll 1$$

***For any 1-joule impact energy, a sensor in 1.3km away can sense this event***



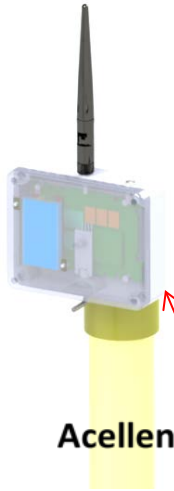
## Priority 2 Event Detection Sensors

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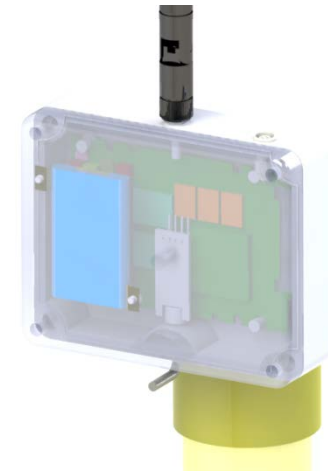




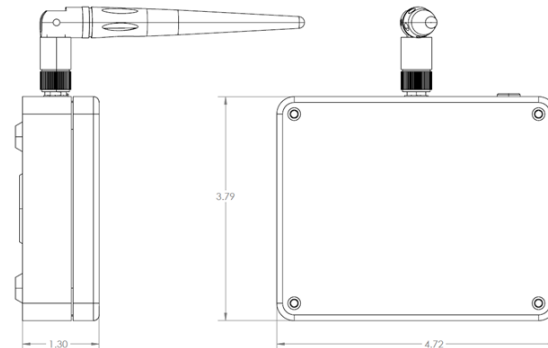
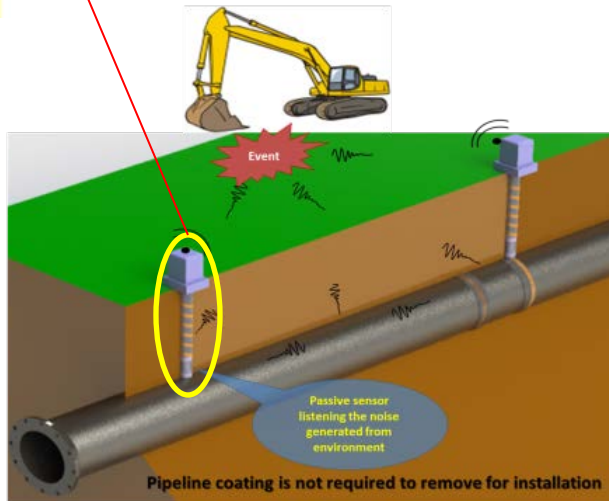
## Task 4. Engineering Work to Finish the Encroachment Detection System



**Acellent Encroachment Detection System**



- Acoustic sensors receive the noise created by environment abnormal activity
- Underground sensors near the pipeline can map out the location and distance from the pipeline
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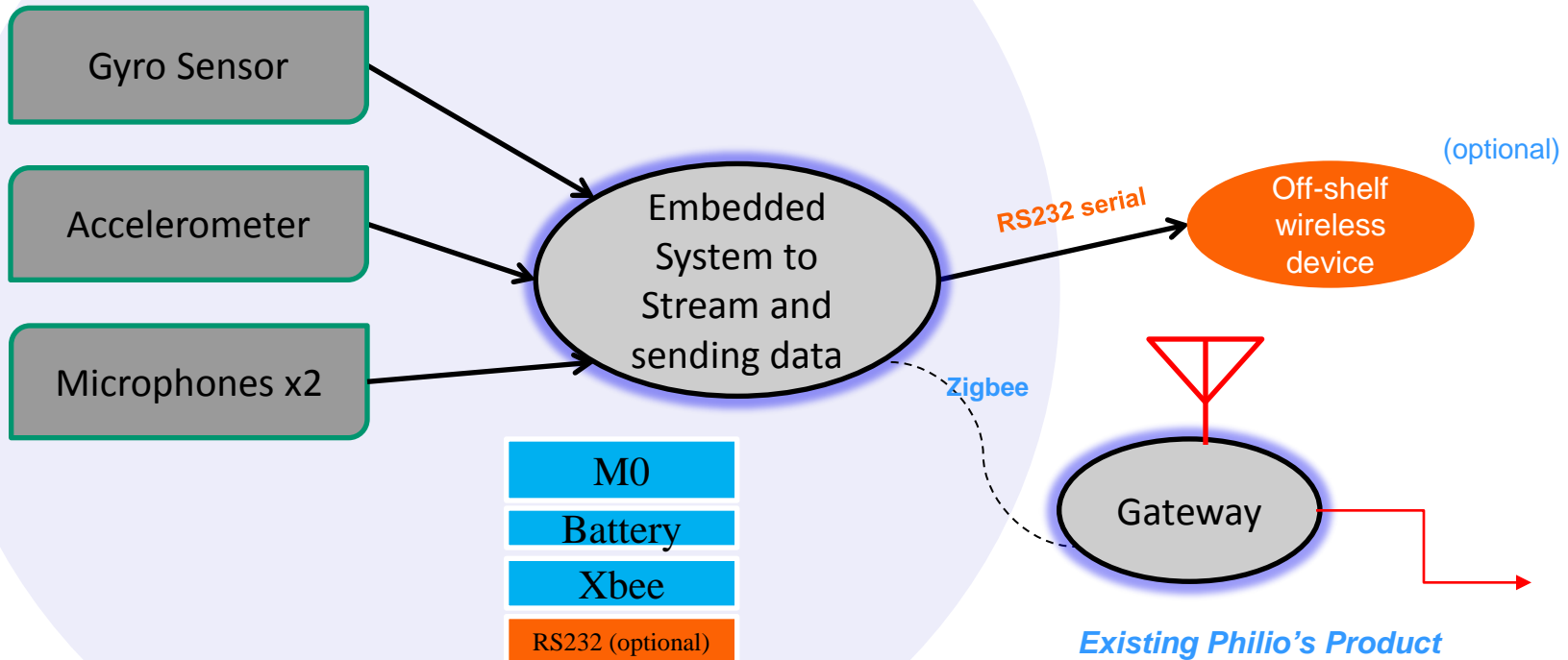




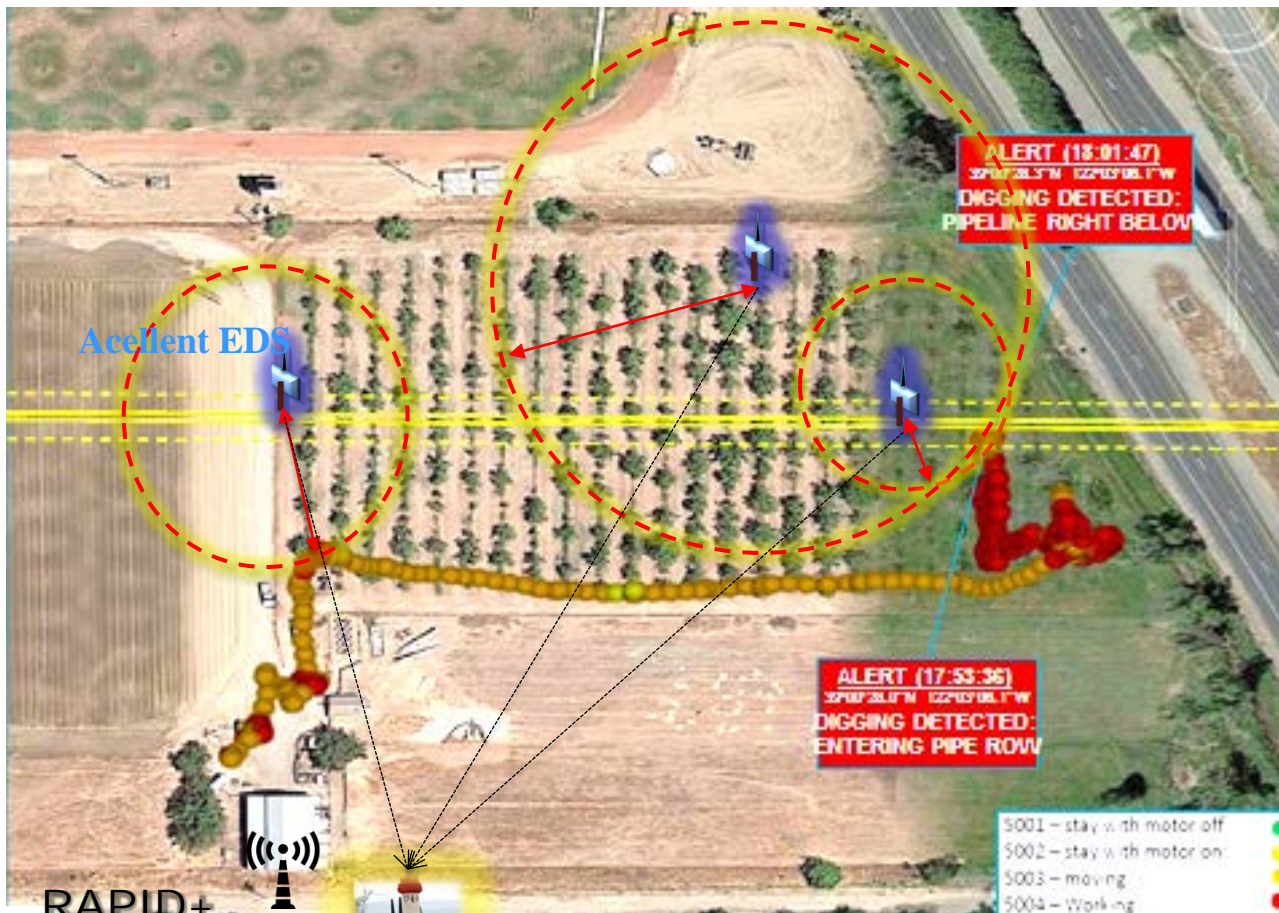


# Acoustic Infrasonic Sensor High Level Architecture

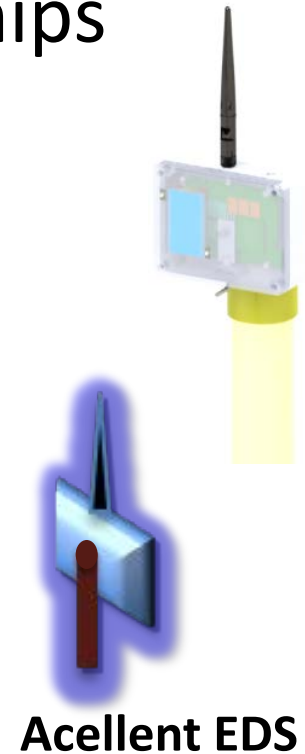
## EDS Sensor



# Source to Site (sensor) Relationships

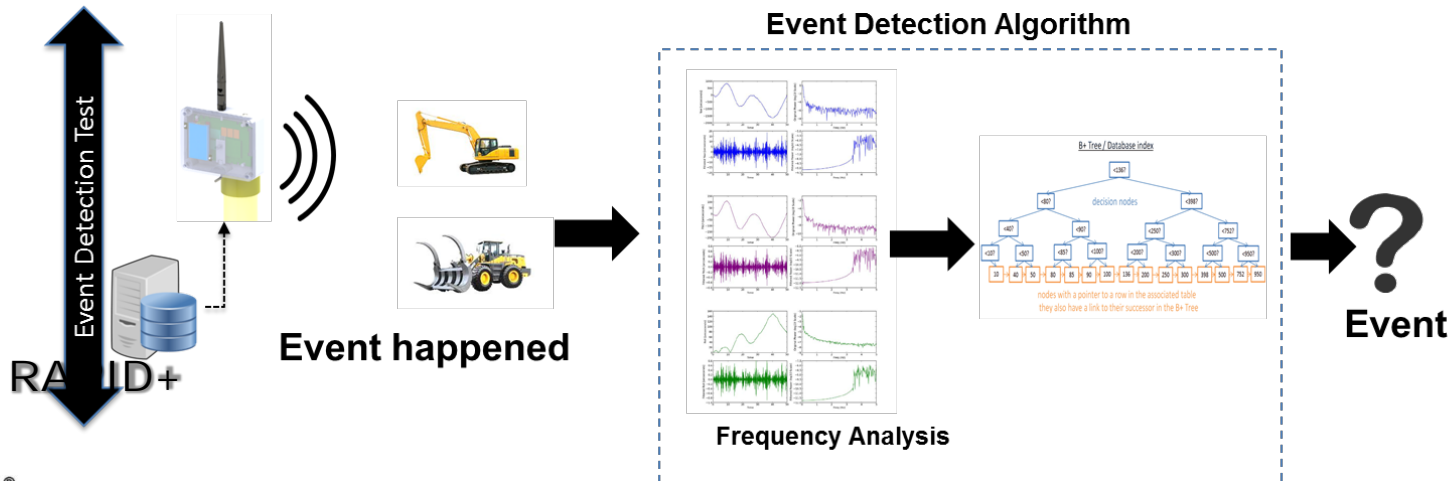
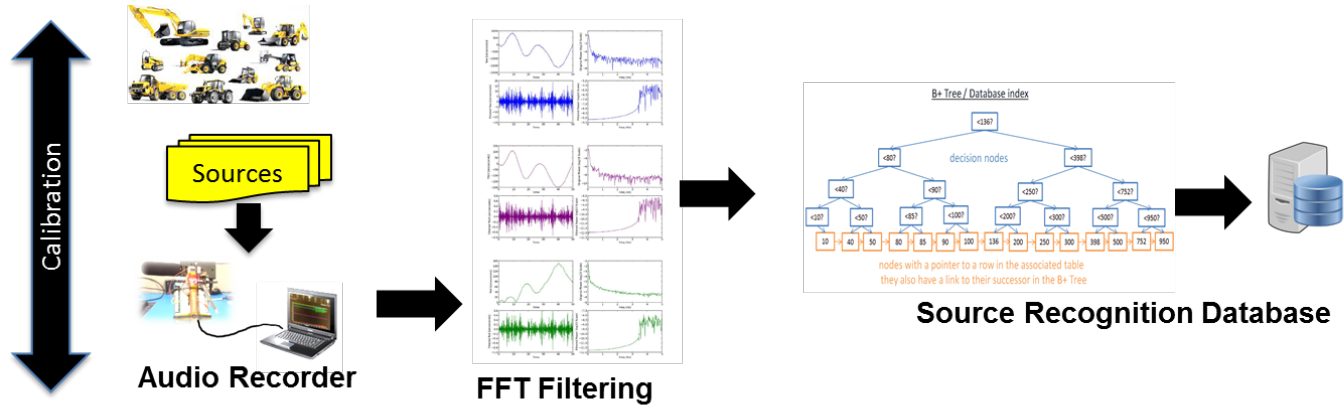


Gateway for Long Range Low Power Radio



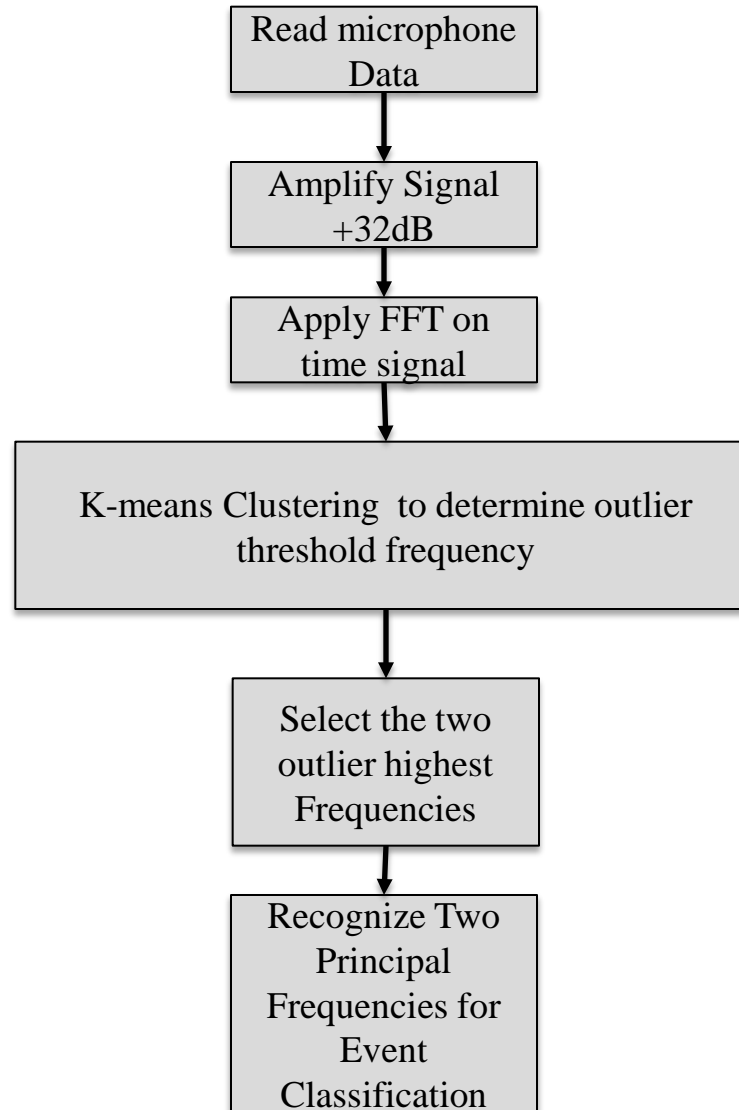
Acellent EDS

## Event Detection Algorithm Development





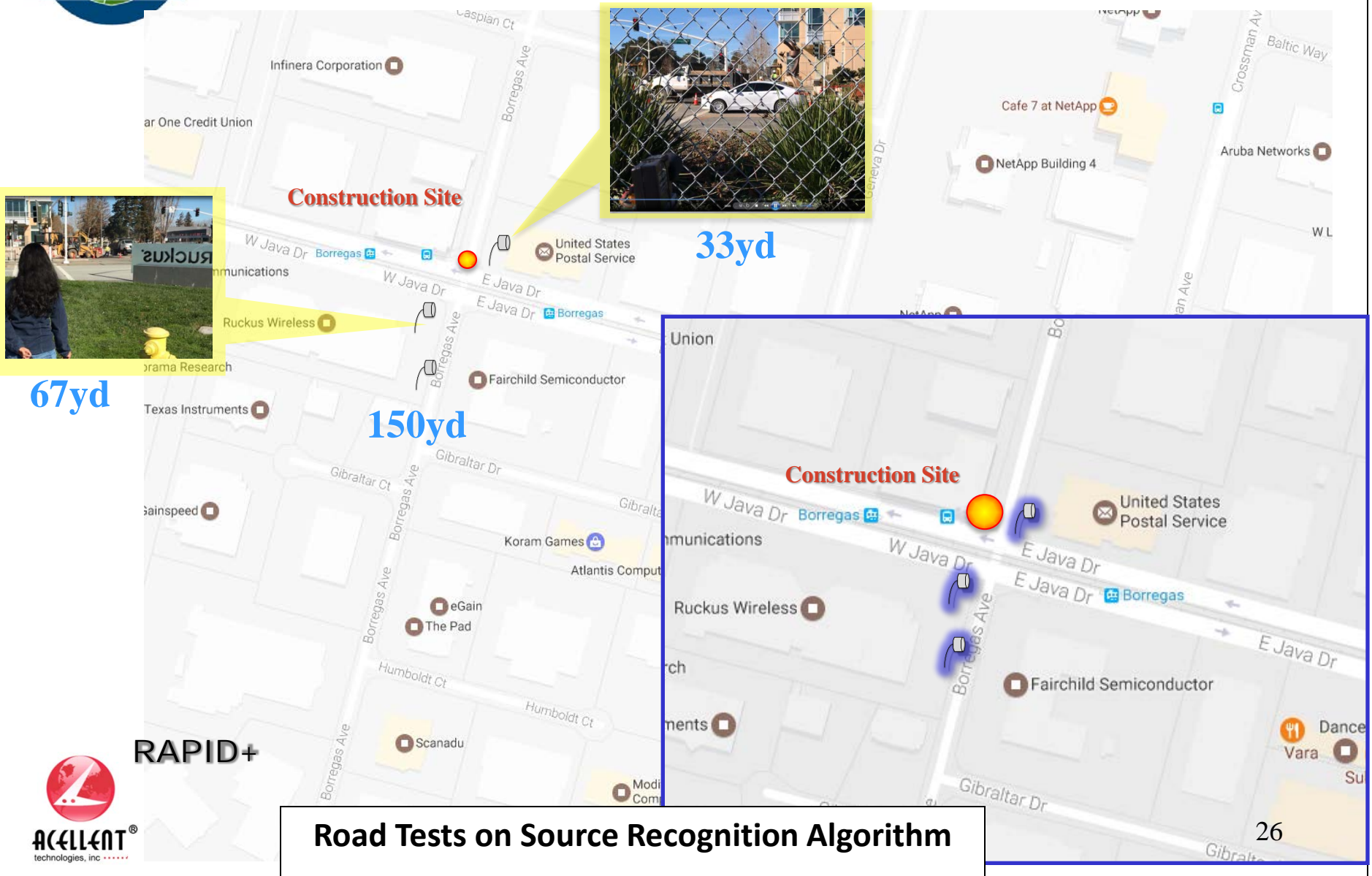
# Frequency Analysis and Event Classification







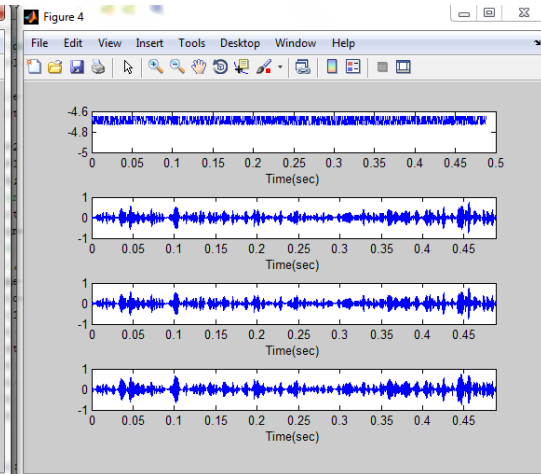
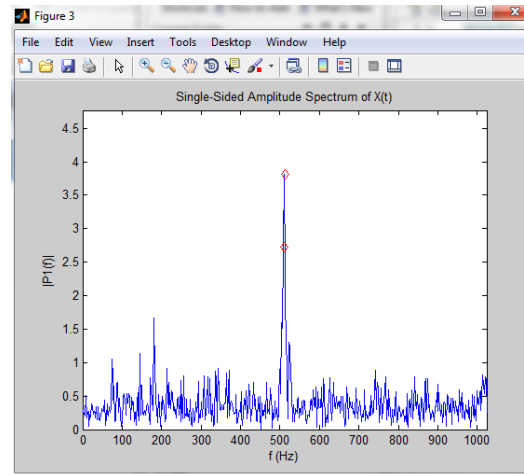
# CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION



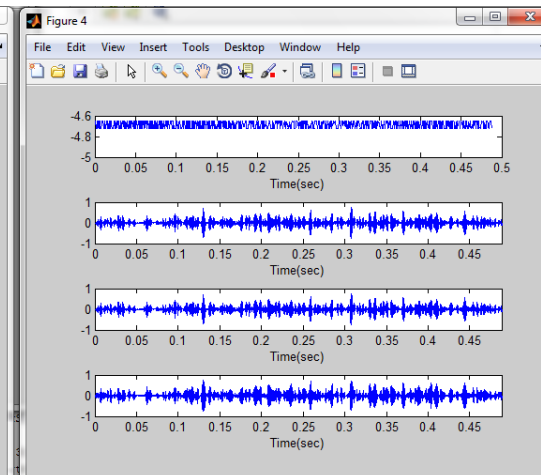
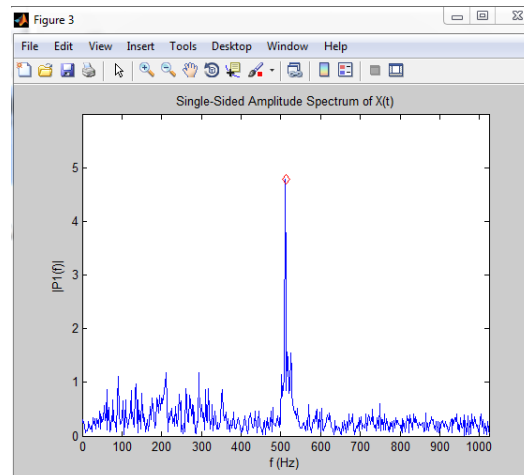


# Event Detection System Frequency Analysis

Construction @33yd



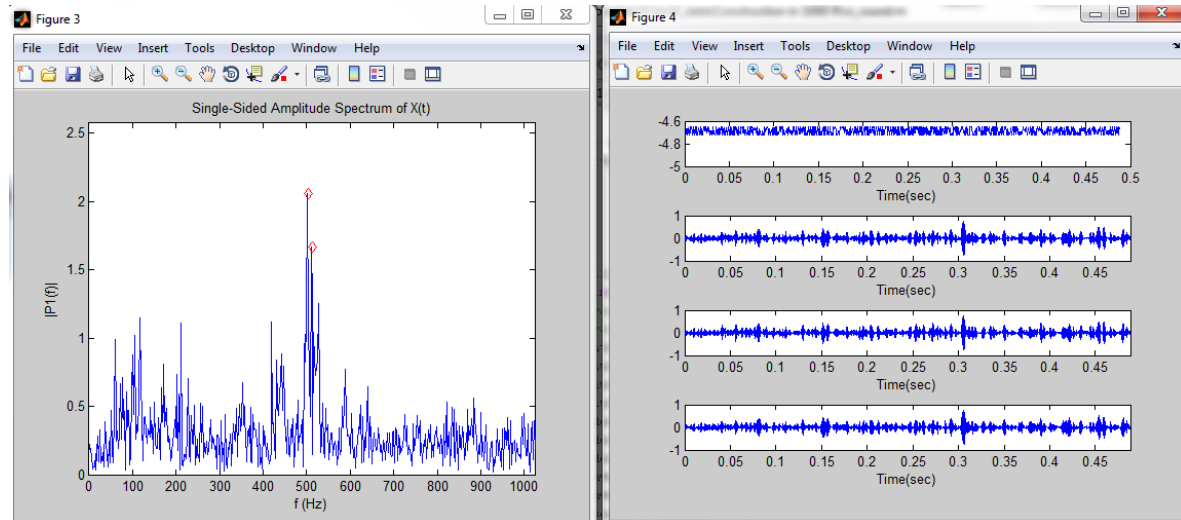
Construction @67yd



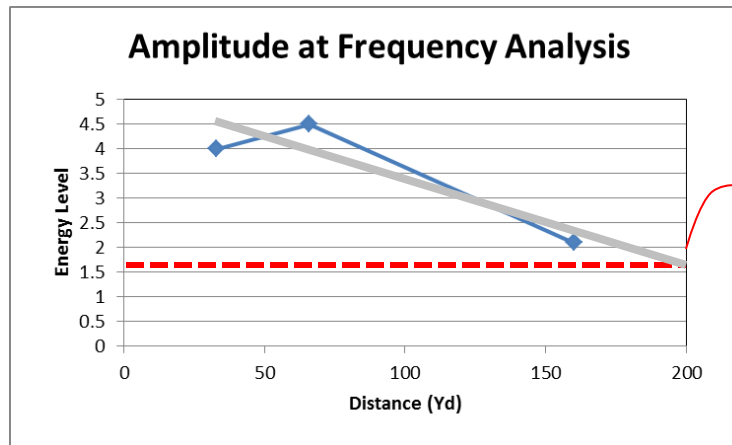


# Event Detection in Energy Profile

Construction @160yd



## Summary



The event alerting distance threshold can be set b/o calibration result from the acoustic frequency profiles v.s. distances





# Test Plan with Utility Partners

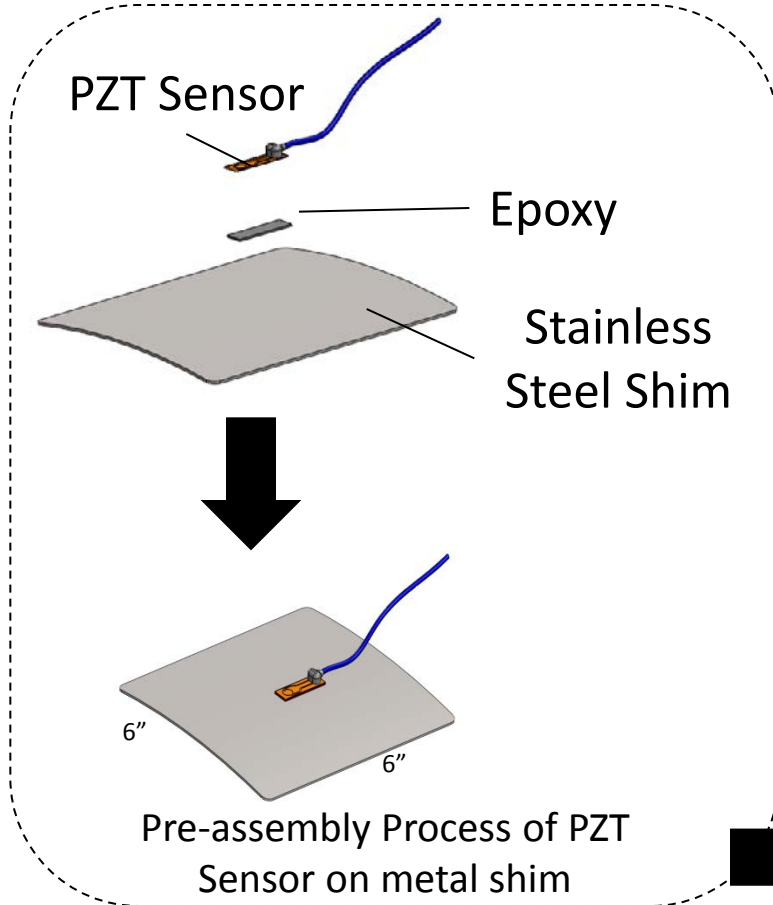
- Verify the sensor installation procedures
  - Maintain the sensitivity performance
  - Durability of spot welded sensor shims on the pipe and test with corrosion resisting coating materials
- Verify the source-to-sensor site event detection systems
  - Test the impact energy and distance of vibration sensor sensitivity verification
  - Test the discrimination algorithms from infrasonic event detection system



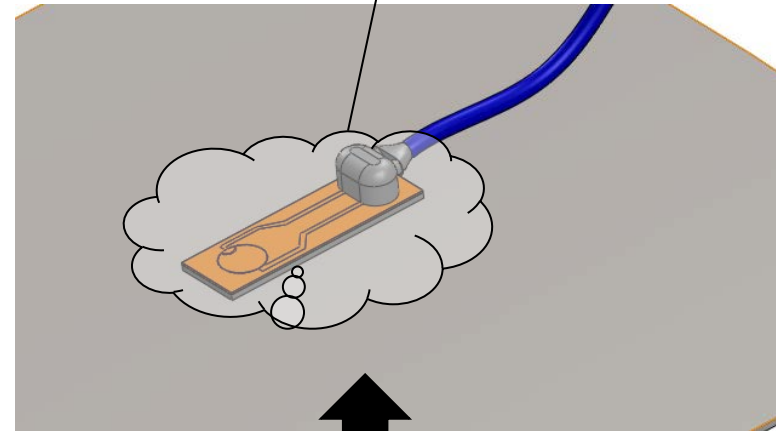
## Work Meeting with Utilities

- Vibration sensor technologies deployment and installation procedures review
- Wireless technologies for the collection of the sensor data
- Requirements for utility test sites to host these sensor packages
- Cross check the proposed schedule for deploying this demonstration

# Pipe Sensor Installation Process

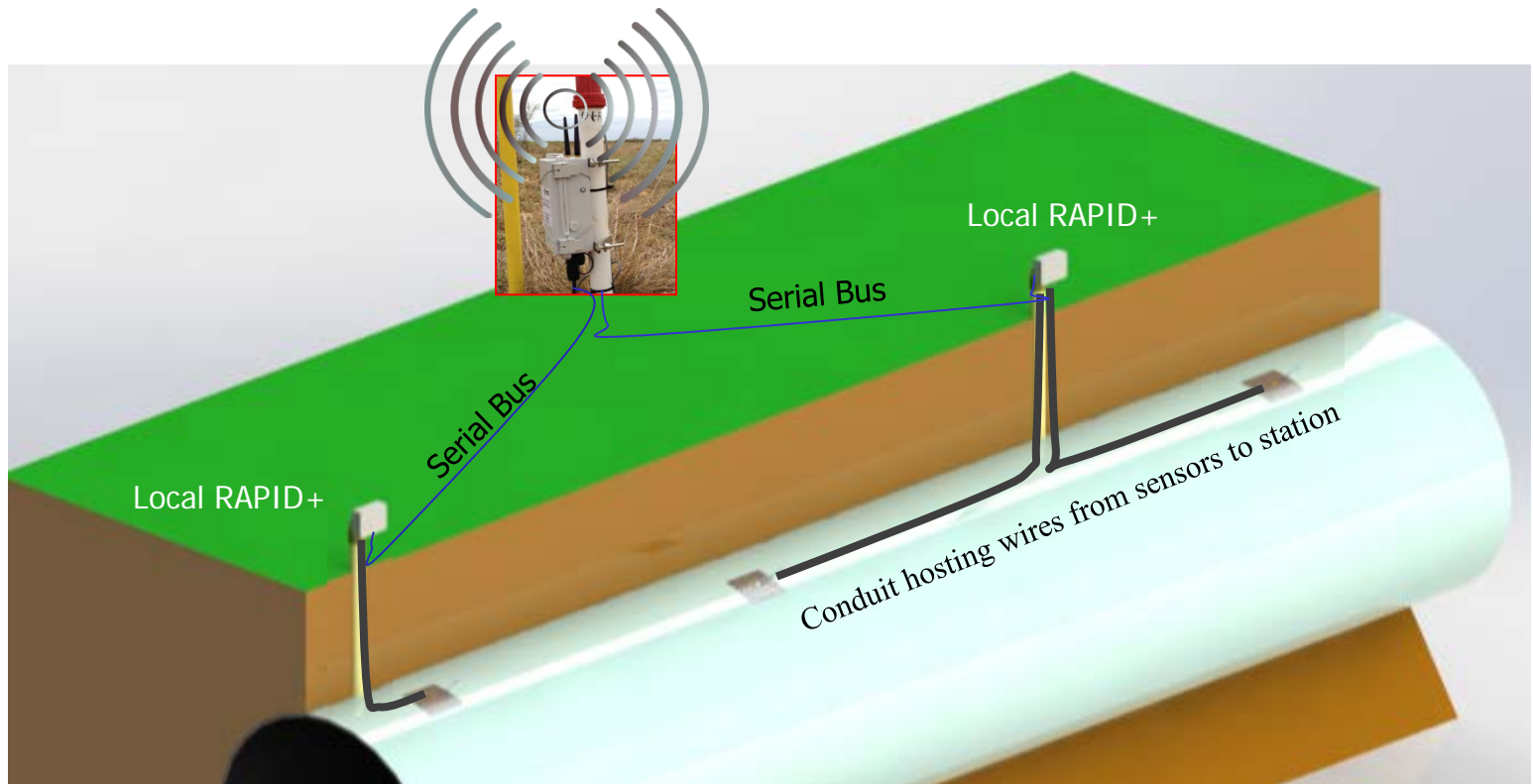


Epoxy to seal the conductor and cable interface for water proof



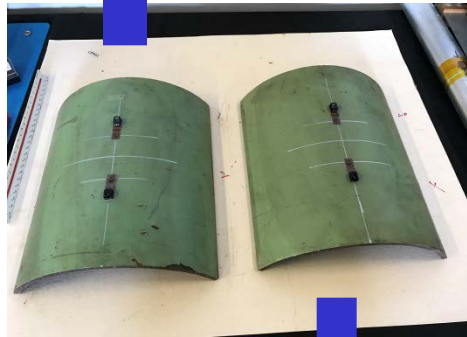
# Pipe Sensors Installation

## Long Range Radio



## Test on Corrosion-resisting Adhesives Coating for Vibration Sensors

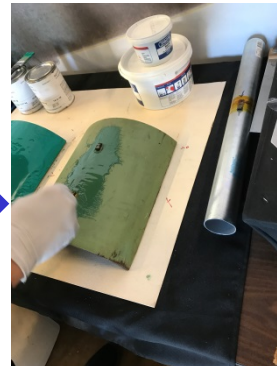
3M Liquid Epoxy 323



>24 hours

Amplitude is increased by 50%

PROPAL 7200



>24 hours

Amplitude is increased by 200%



## Projected Schedule and Milestones

- Deploy Event Detection (RAPID+) sensors starting Q3, 2017
  - Each utility has up to 10 end points and 2 access points available
  - Piggy back on current or near future construction projects
- Begin data collection and visualization Q3, 2017 – Q2, 2018
  - The data will be flowed to a central server
  - The dashboard view will be available to utilities for testing
- Final report to CEC in 2018
  - Provide assessment of technology and recommendations



## Questions and Answers

Thank you!