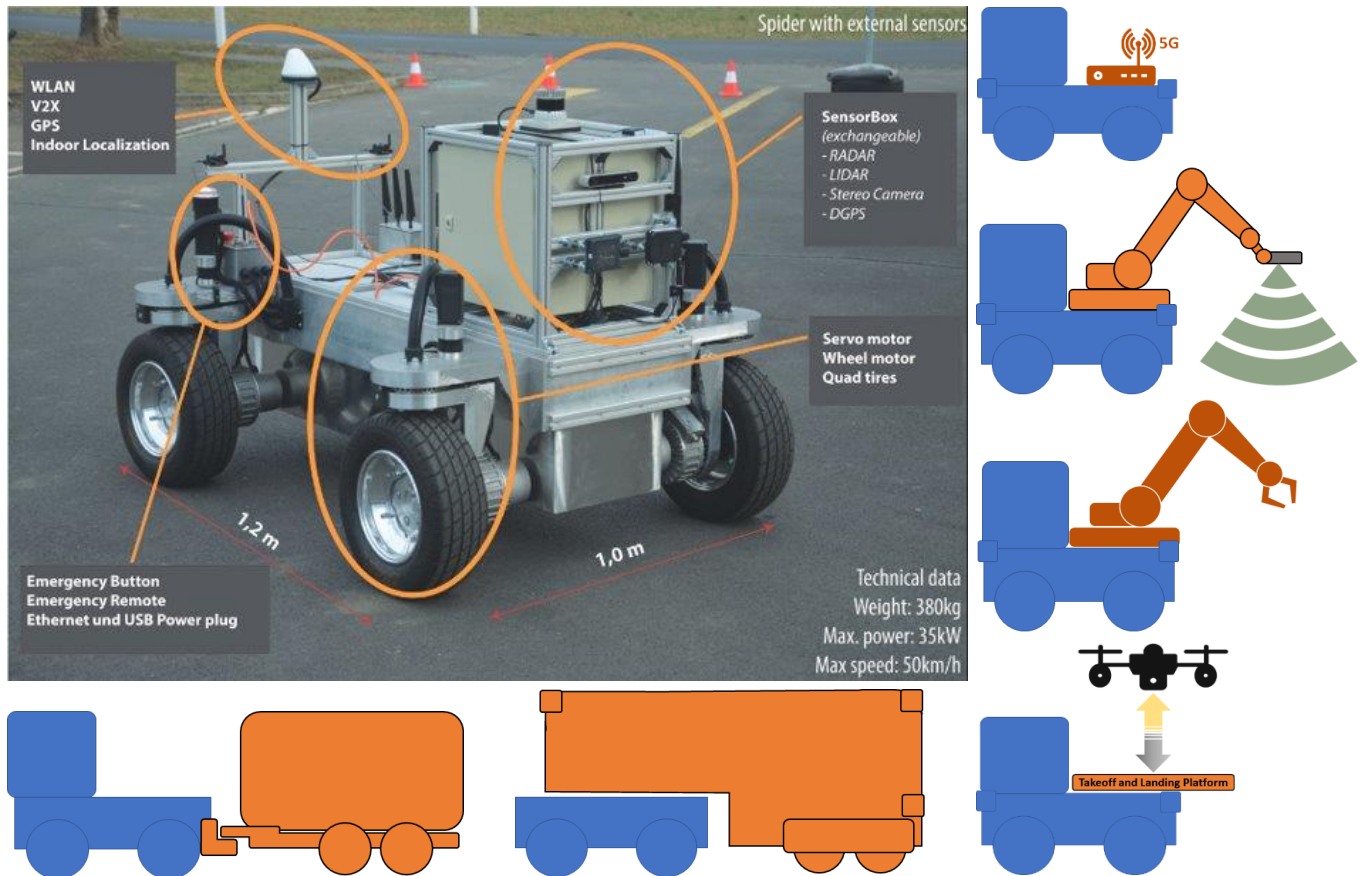


OPEN CALL – LIVING INNOVATION LAB

Extensions and Use-Cases for Autonomous Robot (SPIDER)



BACKGROUND & ADDRESSED CHALLENGE

In the field of autonomous driving or robotics, verification and validation of solutions in the real world are essential. Varying traffic and weather conditions, sensor noise, or noisy hardware feedback from motor controllers can only be simulated with a huge effort. Integration of new functions into a demonstration vehicle is often the faster and more reliable testing method.

However, the process of integrating hardware and software into a test vehicle is a complex task and the gained results are often not reproduceable if the tests are executed manually. Therefore, Virtual Vehicle developed an autonomous robot prototype, the Smart Physical Demonstration and Evaluation Robot (SPIDER). This mobile hardware-in-the-loop (HiL) platform does not only provide solutions for a simple and fast integration of hardware and software, it further implements a broad set of base functions which can be used for the automated execution of tests.

We face two different types of challenges. On the one hand we continuously work on improving SPIDERs base hardware and software functionality. On the other hand, we are open to innovative ideas and technologies which are using the SPIDER as platform.

OFFERED TECHNOLOGY

The main features of the SPIDER are highly dynamic omni-directional movement, robust and splash-water proof design, extensibility, and provision of power and data interfaces allowing to control its movements within a built-in safety framework. The flexible driving capabilities allow to execute a wide range of driving scenarios, which are not possible with cars.

The SPIDER can autonomously track predefined paths and uses different localization methods to increase precision and, by using indoor and outdoor systems, ensuring an interruption free test execution also in harsh test environments or within buildings.

The SPIDER is designed for extensibility and can carry all kinds of hardware starting from lightweight sensors, electronic control units up to heavy weight vehicle fronts at arbitrary mounting positions.

You can use your own computing platform and connect it via network or use an integrated industrial computer with CUDA support. For a fast development, the Robot Operating System (ROS) can be used for software integration. Further, SPIDER provides hardware and software for standardized vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communication.

The default sensor set of SPIDER contains four lidar sensors, high precision dual antenna GPS, cameras, odometry and IMU information. We can offer support for the mechanical, electrical, and software integration of your components and provide a set of base functions like localization, path tracking, or collision avoidance.

EXPERIMENT SCOPE

We expect ideas or solutions which either extend the base functions of SPIDER or take advantage of SPIDER in a use case. Below you find a list of extensions (F1-F3) and use-cases (UC1-UC5) for inspiration.

Extension of SPIDER functions:

- **[F1]** Implementation/adoption of a global planner to SPIDER within the ROS framework. The planner should be able to calculate a drivable trajectory within a given grid-map in real-time.
- **[F2]** V2X via 5G. Extension of the existing V2X functions for communication via 5G.
- **[F3]** Extend perception systems of SPIDER. E.g. camera vision or laser-based object detection and tracking.

SPIDER as test platform:

- **[UC1]** Build up a multifunctional robot arm on top of SPIDER. Use the existing functions of SPIDER to safely move the arm to its targets and mount sensors or grasp objects.
- **[UC2]** Use SPIDER as take-off and landing platform for drones.
- **[UC3]** Provide algorithms or functions to use SPIDER as a drawing vehicle for a trailer.
- **[UC4]** Provide ideas or solutions for SPIDER in use cases like first responder, transportation/logistics, road maintenance.
- **[UC5]** Use SPIDER for evaluation of your sensor fusion, localization (indoor or outdoor) or trajectory planning algorithms.

The expected outcome of the experiments is further development of ideas and publication.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Aligned with the defined long-term COMET K2 research program **Fast-track experiments (up to 6 months)** and **Light-house experiments (7 - 12 months)** executed at VIRTUAL VEHICLE are public (co-)funded up to 50% based on a bilateral agreement. Seed Actions for Start-ups and SMEs will be free of charge.

Your application will be reviewed by our Scientific Assessment Board. The board will evaluate the applicants proposals and select proper candidates. The final number of applications being selected in each call might be different. Only selected applications will be funded.

CALL INFORMATION

Call Opening	01.09.2020	Proposal language	English, German
Call Deadline	30.11.2020	Targeting Group	Start-ups, SME, mid-caps or LEs from EU member states
Project Duration	Seed Action: first try-outs Fast-track experiments: 1 - 6 months Light-house experiments: 7 - 12 months	Indicative Total Budget	Seed Action: VIRTUAL VEHICLE support is free of charge Fast-track experiments: < 50.000 € Light-house experiments: < 200.000 €

If you have a promising smart idea, we are happy to receive your application!

Please use our online application form to send us your proposal and describe:

- In which technology field or discipline are you active
- Your planned application concept and its expected use
- The preliminary benefit
- The industrial relevance and potential impact of your experiment, as well as your plans for exploitation of the results and the future business outlook

Your experiments should be designed to be completed in a maximum of 6 months for fast-track experiments and a maximum of 12 months for light-house experiments.

Experiment proposals are very welcome from organisations located in any EU member state and must be written in English. Submissions done in any other language will not be evaluated.

Contact: lil@v2c2.at

By transmitting your proposal for the "Open Calls – Living Innovation Lab", you agree to our Data Protection Notice and that your submitted application will be evaluated by an expert jury of VIRTUAL VEHICLE representatives. Virtual Vehicle reserves the right to reject any application at any time without giving reasons. The decision is binding and final. The right to appeal at court is excluded. Further details will be agreed in a separate agreement between accepted applicants and Virtual Vehicle. Any liability of Virtual Vehicle is excluded, except as stipulated by applicable mandatory law. Furthermore, you confirm that the contents of the submitted proposal are independently developed by you without the use of confidential information from third parties and are free of third-party rights to the best of your knowledge.

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OPEN CALL – LIVING INNOVATION LAB



VIRTUAL VEHICLE funds SMEs, Start-ups, and Enterprises to experiment and innovate with new technologies.

The LIVING INNOVATION LAB facilitates the transfer of knowledge – from academia to industry and the development of highly innovative product solutions. Together with academic and industrial partners, VIRTUAL VEHICLE is trying to bridge “The Chasm” between investigating innovative concepts and early technology adopters by funded open call experiments.

Successful demonstrations of highly innovative technologies lead to a maximum benefit in exploitation and realistic chances for market uptake. For this reason, the LIVING INNOVATION LAB initiates open calls for experiment proposals to expand and strengthen the transfer of technical capabilities and **making innovative solutions, platforms, and data available for experimentation.**

ACCELERATING INNOVATION WITH VIRTUAL VEHICLE

The Virtual Vehicle Research GmbH is Europe’s largest R&D center for virtual vehicle technology with 300 employees. Research priority is in supporting the virtual vehicle development process, which leads to a powerful HW-SW whole system design and automation of testing and validation procedures. This focus on industry related research makes VIRTUAL VEHICLE the innovation catalyst for future vehicle technologies.

If you are...

- developing smart, innovative concepts in digital future technologies,
- bridging the physical and virtual worlds with advanced approaches and industrialized solutions,
- interested in experiments in cooperation with VIRTUAL VEHICLE to speed up development,
- wishing to access VIRTUAL VEHICLE’s many years of experience in interdisciplinary and virtual system development

... then do not miss this opportunity and apply to one of the open calls to realize your innovative approach

...or do you prefer first a quick experimental study?

If you first want to try out your ideas at VIRTUAL VEHICLE quickly, we offer Start-ups and SMEs our free, light touch “Seed Action”: a first try-out of potential solutions with the support of VIRTUAL VEHICLE’s expertise.