

**RESEARCH PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT**

**SUBMITTED TO:**

U. S. Department of Energy  
National Energy Technology Laboratory

**WORK PERFORMED UNDER AGREEMENT:** DE-FE0029020

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Smart Methane Emission Detection System Development*

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Maria Araujo, PI  
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**SUBMISSION DATE:** April 30, 2018

**DUNS NUMBER:** 007936842

**RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION:**

Southwest Research Institute  
6220 Culebra Road  
San Antonio, TX 78238

**PROJECT/GRANT PERIOD:**

October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018

**REPORTING PERIOD END DATE:**

March 31, 2018

**REPORT TERM OR FREQUENCY:** Quarterly

**SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTING OFFICIAL:**



Maria S. Araujo

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### What was done? What was learned?

Activities during this quarter focused on initial preparation and planning for the System Integration and Test, which are scheduled to start in FY 2018 Q2.

- **What are the major goals of the project?** The major objective of this DOE research project is to develop an autonomous, real-time methane leak detection technology, the SLED, which applies machine learning techniques to passive optical sensing modalities to mitigate emissions through early detection. The goal during Phase 1 is to develop the prototype methane detection system with integrated optical sensors and the embedded processing unit. The goal for Phase 2 will be to integrate and field-test the prototype system, and then demonstrate the capabilities to DOE.

To accomplish these goals, SwRI has identified a comprehensive schedule with milestone dates for important activities that will evidence progress on the project. The milestone schedule, with actual completion dates, is shown below.

Phase	Milestone Description	Verification Method	Planned Completion	Completion Date
1	Prepare and Submit the PMP	Delivery to DOE	10/29/16	10/29/2016
1	Update PMP with DOE Comments	Delivery to DOE	12/2/16	11/16/2016
1	Update the Data Management Plan	Delivery to DOE	12/16/16	12/16/2016
1	Develop the Algorithm	Assessment Results	9/15/17 (revised per PMP submitted on 6/13/17)	9/15/17
1	Develop and Assemble Prototype	Testing Results	9/22/17 (revised per PMP submitted on 6/13/17)	9/22/17
2	Integrate and Test Prototype	Testing Results	9/15/18	
2	Demonstrate the System to DOE	Demonstration	9/15/18	

On April 16, 2018, milestones for the project were sent to DOE, as noted below:

Milestones:

FY 18 Q3:

- System Testing and Refinement
- System Drawings and Documentation

FY 18 Q4:

- System Demonstration
- System Test Report, Final Algorithm

Number	Task/Subtask	Deliverables	Completion Date	Revised Date
Pd6	4.0	Mechanical Drawings	1/26/18	6/30/18
Pd7	5.0	Electrical Drawings and System Design Document	1/26/18	6/30/18
Sd1	6.0	System Test Plan, System Test Report, Updated Drawings, Updated Software Executable and Source Code	4/20/18	9/15/18

- **What was accomplished under these goals?**

**Algorithm and Embedded Code Documentation**

- During this quarter, SwRI made minor updates to the SLED/M algorithm and the embedded code.

**Initial Preparation for System Integration and Test**

- During this quarter, SwRI finalized the validation test scenarios for the System Integration and Test activities. The tests have not yet been conducted, but will be conducted in the next two quarters.

**Algorithm Refinement**

- During this quarter, SwRI made minor updates to the algorithm for improved detection, using our existing data sets. Further refinements are expected in the next quarter based on validation tests.

- **What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?**

A paper was written and submitted to the World Gas Conference, which will take place in June 2018 in Washington DC. Results to date will be discussed at the conference.

Thursday, June 29: INNOVATION: EFFECTIVELY CHARACTERIZING AND ADDRESSING METHANE EMISSIONS

Reference: [https://wgc2018.com/program/#session\\_3562](https://wgc2018.com/program/#session_3562)

- **How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?**

- With the concurrence of the DOE PM, Mr. Joseph Renk III:

- Maria Araujo presented at the Western Regional Gas Conference in San Diego, CA on August 30, 2017 with a presentation titled “Bringing Smarts to Methane Emissions Detection: An Update on the DOE Smart Methane Emissions Project.”
  - Team exhibited at the CH<sub>4</sub> Connections – The Methane Emissions Conference with a booth showcasing the DOE Smart Methane Emissions project.
  - Maria Araujo presented at the Pipeline and Energy Expo in Tulsa, OK in April 2018 with a presentation titled “Automated Leak Detection Using Machine Learning and Multi-Platform Remote Sensing.”
  - Team plans on presenting at the World Gas Conference in June 2018 with a presentation titled “Real-Time Automated Methane Leak Detection Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning on the Edge” (paper accepted).
  - Team plans on presenting at the American Gas Association Conference in June 2018 with a presentation titled “Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning for Automated Methane Leak Detection” (abstract accepted).
- The team is also looking at additional conferences/venues to divulge this work.
- Additionally, several high-level articles regarding the work being done on this project were published and aired on television. Some references are noted below:
  - <https://pgjonline.com/2017/10/02/teaching-technology-solution-finds-small-pipeline-leaks/>
  - <https://www.talkingiotinenergy.com/single-post/2017/06/08/Machine-learning-improves-oil-and-gas-monitoring>
  - <https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/energy/machine-learning-applies-pipeline-leaks>
  - <http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/108067-texas-laboratory-developing-methane-leak-detection-system-for-doe>
  - [http://www.rigzone.com/iPhone/article.asp?a\\_id=147295](http://www.rigzone.com/iPhone/article.asp?a_id=147295)
  - <http://www.klrn.org/blogs/station-news/swri-developing-smart-technology-to-detect-methane-leaks/>
  - <http://www.oilandgaslawyerblog.com/2017/02/high-tech-detect-pipeline-leaks.html>
  - <https://www.ksat.com/news/swri-working-on-oil-and-gas-leak-detection>
- **What does SwRI plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?**

During the next reporting period, SwRI will:

- Perform field/evaluation testing.
- Continue fine-tuning algorithm performance. This will include incorporating more training data from the collection stage, searching through the classifier’s settings to find the optimal conditions, and modifying the network structure to improve the feature learning.

- Refine the embedded processor code development.
- Finalize building the prototype system.
- Perform field testing.
- Initiate System Integration and Test.

## **PRODUCTS**

What has the project produced?

- **Publications, conference papers, and presentations:**
  - **Journal publications -**
    - Teaching Technology: Solution Finds Small Pipeline Leaks, Pipeline and Gas Journal. October 2017, Vol. 244, No. 10.
    - Machine Learning Applies to Pipeline Leaks, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). August 2017.
    - Machine learning improves oil and gas monitoring, Talking IoT in Energy, June 2017.
  - **Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications -** Nothing to Report During This Period.
  - **Other publications, conference papers and presentations -**
    - Maria Araujo presented at the Western Regional Gas Conference in San Diego, CA on August 30, 2017 with a presentation titled “Bringing Smarts to Methane Emissions Detection: An Update on the DOE Smart Methane Emissions Project.”
    - Maria Araujo presented at the Pipeline and Energy Expo in Tulsa, OK in April 2018 with a presentation titled “Automated Leak Detection Using Machine Learning and Multi-Platform Remote Sensing.”
    - Team plans on presenting at the World Gas Conference in June 2018 with a presentation titled “Real-Time Automated Methane Leak Detection Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning on the Edge” (abstract accepted).
    - Team plans on presenting at the American Gas Association Conference in June 2018 with a presentation titled “Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning for Automated Methane Leak Detection” (abstract accepted).
  - **Website(s) or other Internet site(s) –**
    - <https://www.spe.org/en/ogf/ogf-article-detail/?art=3639>
    - <https://pgjonline.com/2017/10/02/teaching-technology-solution-finds-small-pipeline-leaks/>
    - <https://www.talkingiotinenergy.com/single-post/2017/06/08/Machine-learning-improves-oil-and-gas-monitoring>
    - <https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/energy/machine-learning-applies-pipeline-leaks>
    - <http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/108067-texas-laboratory-developing-methane-leak-detection-system-for-doe>
    - [http://www.rigzone.com/iPhone/article.asp?a\\_id=147295](http://www.rigzone.com/iPhone/article.asp?a_id=147295)
    - <http://www.klrn.org/blogs/station-news/swri-developing-smart-technology-to-detect-methane-leaks/>
    - <http://www.oilandgaslawyerblog.com/2017/02/high-tech-detect-pipeline-leaks.html>

- <https://www.ksat.com/news/swri-working-on-oil-and-gas-leak-detection>
- **Technologies or techniques** – A technique for autonomously detecting methane using MWIR cameras and machine learning is currently under development, with promising results.
- **Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses** – SwRI filed an invention disclosure of the technique for autonomously detecting methane using MWIR cameras and machine learning (January 2018).
- **Other products** - Nothing to report during this reporting period.

## **PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS (optional)**

### **Who has been involved?**

- **What individuals have worked on the project?**

The following individuals were the main contributors to this project during this reporting period:

1. **Name:** Maria Araujo
  - a. **Project Role:** PI
  - b. **Nearest person month worked:** 1
  - c. **Contribution to Project:** Ms. Araujo oversees the project and technical direction. She participated on the simulated tests and holds weekly meetings with the project team.
  - d. **Funding Support:** N/A
  - e. **Collaborated with individual in foreign country:** No
  - f. **Country(ies) of foreign collaborator:** N/A
  - g. **Travelled to foreign country:** No
  - h. **If traveled to foreign country(ies), duration of stay:** N/A
2. **Name:** Daniel Davila
  - a. **Project Role:** Developer
  - b. **Nearest person month worked:** 3
  - c. **Contribution to Project:** Mr. Davila assisted with tests performed and algorithm development during this reporting period.
  - d. **Funding Support:** N/A
  - e. **Collaborated with individual in foreign country:** No
  - f. **Country(ies) of foreign collaborator:** N/A
  - g. **Travelled to foreign country:** No
  - h. **If traveled to foreign country(ies), duration of stay:** N/A

- **What other organizations have been involved as partners?**

There are no other planned partner organizations besides the cost share partners.

- **Have other collaborators or contacts been involved?**

No other collaborators or contacts have yet been involved.



## **IMPACT (optional)**

### **What is the impact of the project? How has it contributed?**

Although SwRI fully expects this project to provide significant impacts that benefit the nation, development is not yet to a point where impacts have been realized or quantified. However, with the approval of the DOE, the team has already been engaging in conversations with oil and gas companies about how the SLED/M technology could potentially improve their efficiency and safety.

- **What is the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project?**

The development of the SLED/M technology allows for mitigation of fugitive emissions via the early detection of methane leaks. The technology is real-time and autonomous, thus allowing for facilities to be monitored with minimal human resource involvement and, therefore, reducing the overall monitoring costs and improving the reliability of detections.

- **What is the impact on other disciplines?**

The technology being developed in this project has a variety of applications beyond methane emissions monitoring, such as carbon monoxide monitoring; agricultural land use analysis and crop prediction; water management and soil moisture analysis; natural hazards monitoring and prediction; and ecosystem monitoring and conservation.

- **What is the impact on the development of human resources?**

Nothing to Report

- **What is the impact on physical, institutional, and information resources that form infrastructure?**

Nothing to Report

- **What is the impact on technology transfer?**

Commercial partners have expressed interest in commercializing the technology developed under this contract.

- **What is the impact on society beyond science and technology?**

The byproducts of this project will allow for more effective mitigation of methane emissions, which are a major greenhouse effect contributor. By reducing fugitive methane emissions, climate change impacts caused by greenhouse gas emissions are also reduced.

- **What dollar amount of the award's budget is being spent in foreign country(ies)?**

Nothing to Report

### **CHANGES/PROBLEMS**

SwRI does not anticipate any significant changes in the project or its direction. If this should occur, SwRI is fully aware of its responsibility to provide all relevant details, and to obtain prior written approval from the Contracting Officer.

- **Changes in approach and reasons for change –**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

- **Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them –**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

- **Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures –**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

- **Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or biohazards –**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

- **Change of primary performance site location from that originally proposed –**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

### **SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

SwRI is not aware of any special reporting requirements in the award terms and conditions.

### **BUDGETARY INFORMATION**

The cost status is provided on the next page. It identifies the baseline cost plan, actual incurred costs, and variance.

Budget Reporting Quarter	Budget Period 1								Budget Period 2							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	10/1-16 - 12/31/16		1/1/17 - 3/31/17		4/1/17 - 6/30/17		7/1/17 - 9/30/17		10/1-17 - 12/31/17		1/1/18 - 3/31/18		4/1/18 - 6/30/18		7/1/18 - 9/30/18	
	Q1	Cumulative Total	Q2	Cumulative Total	Q3	Cumulative Total	Q4	Cumulative Total	Q1	Cumulative Total	Q2	Cumulative Total	Q3	Cumulative Total	Q4	Cumulative Total
<b>Budget Cost Plan</b>																
Federal Share	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$160,000	\$209,000	\$165,000	\$374,000	\$143,407	\$517,407	\$27,748	\$545,155	\$27,747	\$572,902	\$27,747	\$600,649	\$27,747	\$628,396
Non-Federal Share	\$39,345	\$39,345	\$39,345	\$78,690	\$39,345	\$118,035	\$39,345	\$157,380	\$0	\$157,380	\$0	\$157,380	\$0	\$157,380	\$0	\$157,380
Total Planned	\$88,345	\$88,345	\$199,345	\$287,690	\$204,345	\$492,035	\$182,752	\$674,787	\$27,748	\$702,535	\$27,747	\$730,282	\$27,747	\$758,029	\$27,747	\$785,776
<b>Actual Incurred Cost</b>																
Federal Share	\$9,846	\$9,846	\$128,947	\$138,793	\$151,515	\$290,308	\$169,138	\$459,446	\$18,727	\$478,174	\$43,311	\$521,485				\$521,485
Non-Federal Share	\$2,461	\$2,461	\$32,237	\$34,698	\$37,879	\$72,577	\$42,284	\$114,862	\$4,682	\$119,543	\$10,828	\$130,371				\$130,371
Total Incurred Costs	\$12,307	\$12,307	\$161,184	\$173,491	\$189,394	\$362,886	\$211,422	\$574,308	\$23,409	\$597,717	\$54,139	\$651,856				\$651,856
<b>Variance</b>																
Federal Share	\$39,154	\$39,154	\$31,053	\$70,207	\$13,485	\$83,692	-\$25,731	\$57,961	\$9,021	\$66,981	-\$15,564	\$51,417				\$106,911
Non-Federal Share	\$36,884	\$36,884	\$7,108	\$43,992	-\$1,466	\$45,458	-\$2,939	\$42,518	-\$4,682	\$37,837	-\$10,828	\$27,009				\$27,009
Total Variance	\$76,038	\$76,038	\$38,161	\$114,199	\$14,951	\$129,149	-\$28,670	\$100,479	\$4,339	\$104,818	-\$26,392	\$78,426				\$133,920

The variance for Fiscal Year 2018 Q2 is shown above.