



REX2024
PRCI Research Exchange

PRCI-REX2024-055: Modernizing Aerial Patrol - Real Life Remote Sensing for Liquid Leak and Threat Detection Along the Right of Way

*First Detection Demonstrations of a Real Pipeline Seep Leak,
Encroachments, and Exposed Pipes using a Traditional Aerial
Patrol Plane*

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San Diego, California

February 27, 2024



Pipeline Research Council International

Agenda

2

- Company Backgrounds
- Pilot Objective
- Description of the technology
- Real results from the field trial
- Summary and next steps



Flyscan Systems at a Glance



Founded 2015 – 27 employees – First Mover in Liquid Leak Detection



Raised over \$10 million USD to date



Equity Investments from Enbridge, Hatch, Marathon, BDC and Adlares

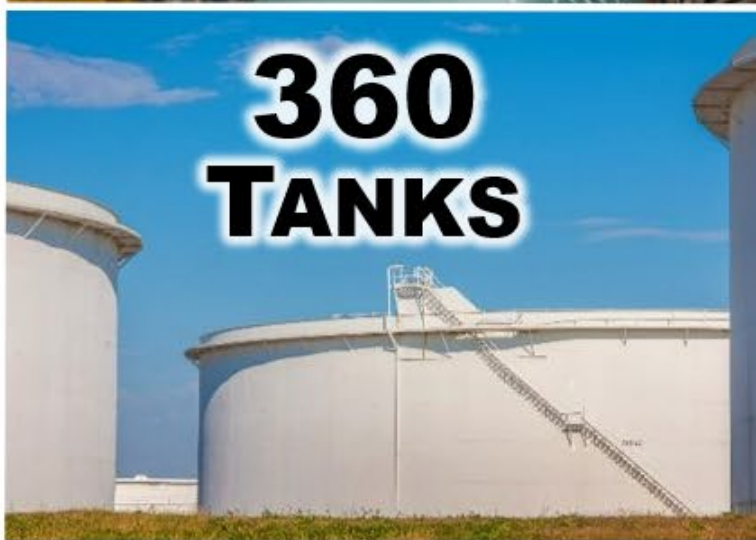
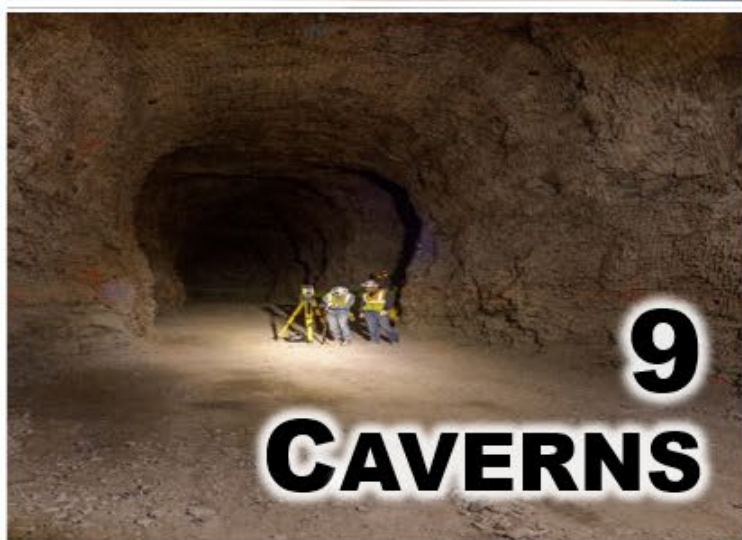
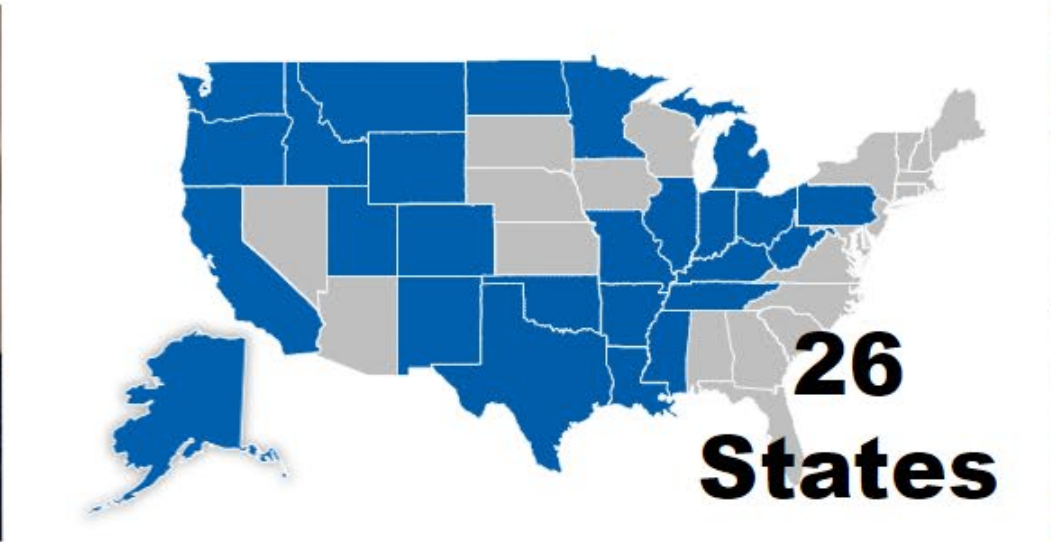


Over 50,000 miles of ROW flown in North America




About Marathon Pipe Line (MPL)

4



MPL's Mission

5



Our **MISSION** is to safely and reliably operate our pipelines and grow the business.

Our **VISION** is to be a premier pipeline operator known for the strength of our people, our culture, and exceptional performance.

MPL's Strategic Goals

6

Zero Mainline Releases



Prevent people from hitting our pipelines.

Understand and manage all threats to our pipelines.

Protect the Public and Earn their Trust



Keep the public informed and safe.

Improve the effectiveness of our earning your trust program.

Develop and advance new technologies to mitigate risk and enhance efficiency

Pipeline Right-of-Way Inspection

7

- § 195.412 - Each operator shall, at intervals not exceeding 3 weeks, but at least 26 times each calendar year, **inspect the surface conditions on or adjacent to each pipeline right-of-way**. Methods of inspection include walking, driving, flying or other appropriate means of traversing the right-of-way.
- MPL typically utilizes bi-weekly inspections by fixed wing aircraft
- Pilots are trained to identify potentials threats:
 - Evidence of leaks – surface staining, sheen on water, dead vegetation
 - Third-Party Activity – construction, excavation
 - Natural Forces – washouts, erosion, land slips, sink holes
 - Encroachments – sheds, decks, structures



Advanced Right-of-Way Inspection Initiative

8

- Traditional patrol has a **67%** effectiveness identifying 3rd party conflicts (PRCI Study SM-403-148100, Price, Yoel, & Asari, 2016)
- Project Scope: Partner with Flyscan on a one-year pilot to evaluate automated threat detection leveraging artificial intelligence and advanced imaging as potential replacement for traditional aerial patrol.
- Goals:
 - Improve the overall effectiveness of the aerial patrol process
 - Expand capability to detect previously undetectable hazards that could lead to larger issues
 - Supplement more costly data collection such as LiDAR and ground survey

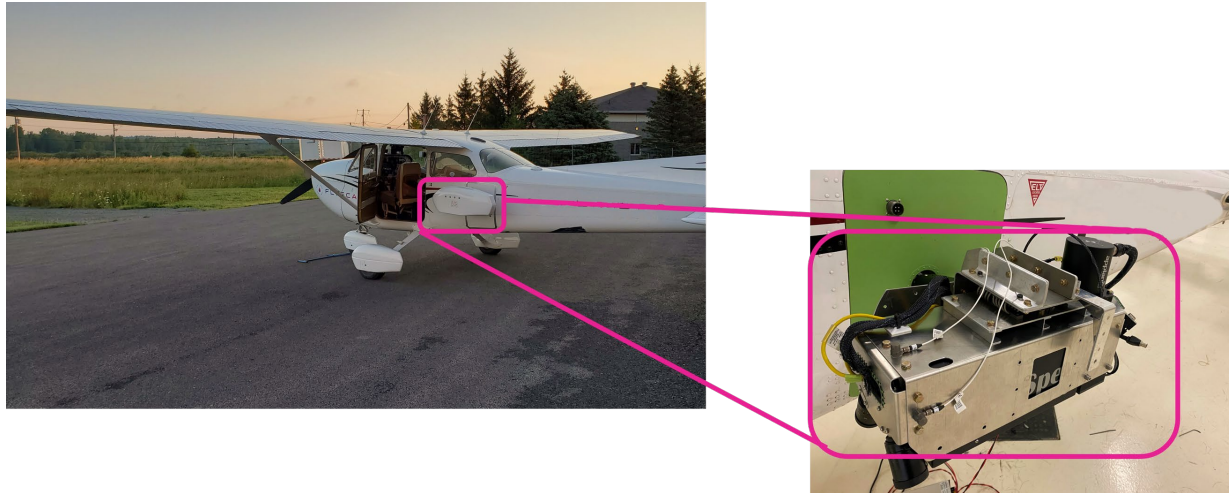




Flyscan Technology Overview

Sensor Pods

Generation 1 Pod



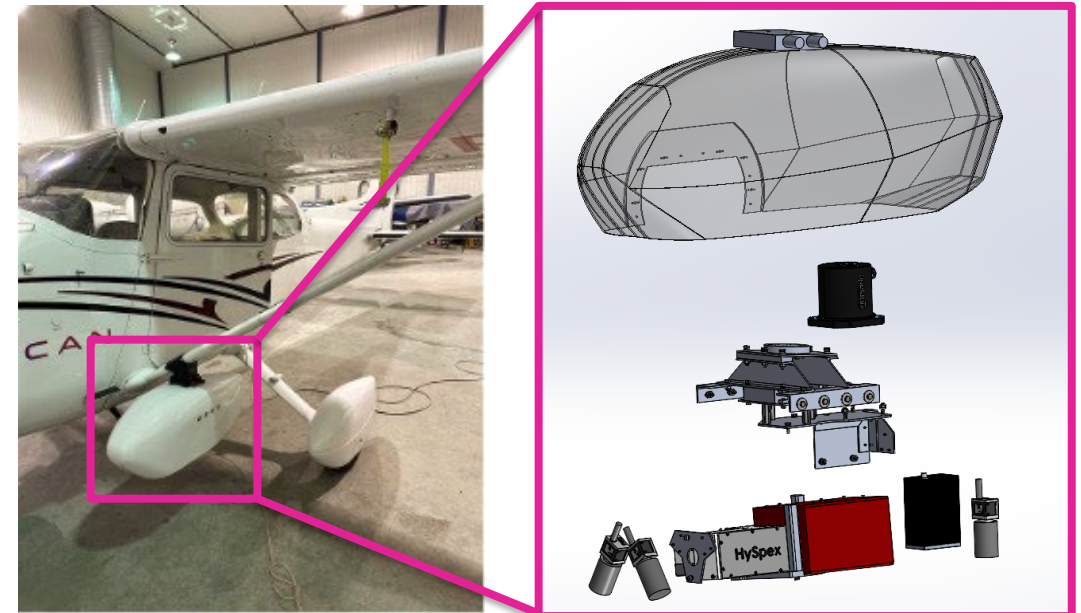
- External pod - remote sensing cameras
- Internal rack - computers, navigation, communication and pilot user interface
- Designed for single pilot-operator
- Designed to piggy-back on planes doing ROW patrols

Generation 2 Pod

Compatible with:

- ✓ Cessna C172K to C172P
- ✓ Robinson helicopters
- ✓ Cessna 182
- ✓ Cessna 206
- ✓ Cessna 208

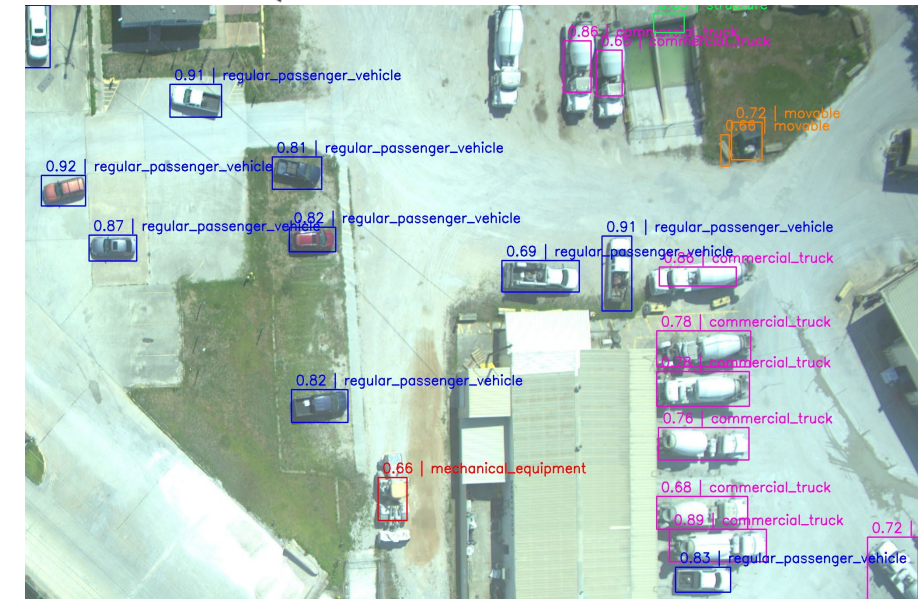
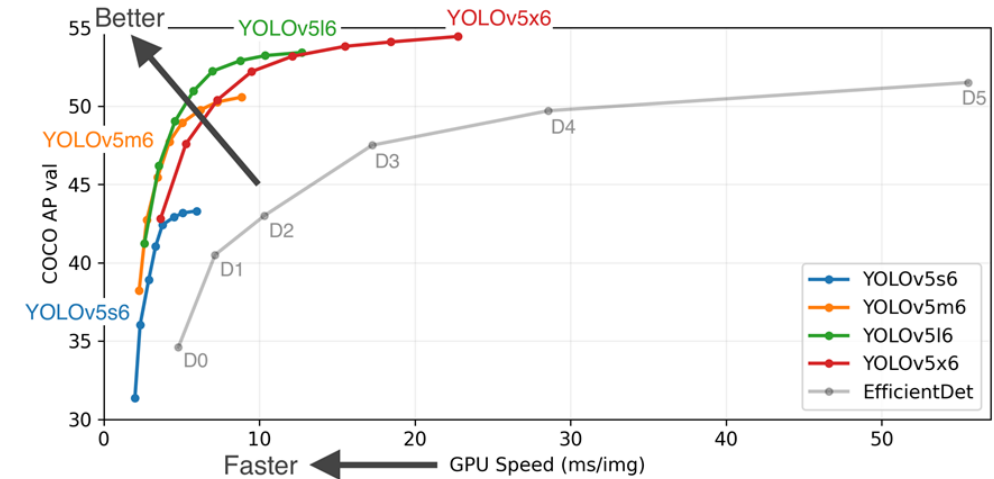
Meeker mount



The “How”: Threat detection

11

- Machine learning object detection
 - i.e. training the computer to recognise potential threats in images
- Thousands of examples are used to train an algorithm
- Each images is manually annotated to identify the objects of interest
 - The model is in a constant state of improvement as it can be continually fed data to increase its accuracy
- 3 images are processed per second
 - Each image is processed in real time to give the pilot the information he needs at that moment in flight
 - Custom pre-processing and post-processing modules have been developed to handle large resolution aerial images as such large images cannot directly be fed to the model.



Automated Threat Detection Details

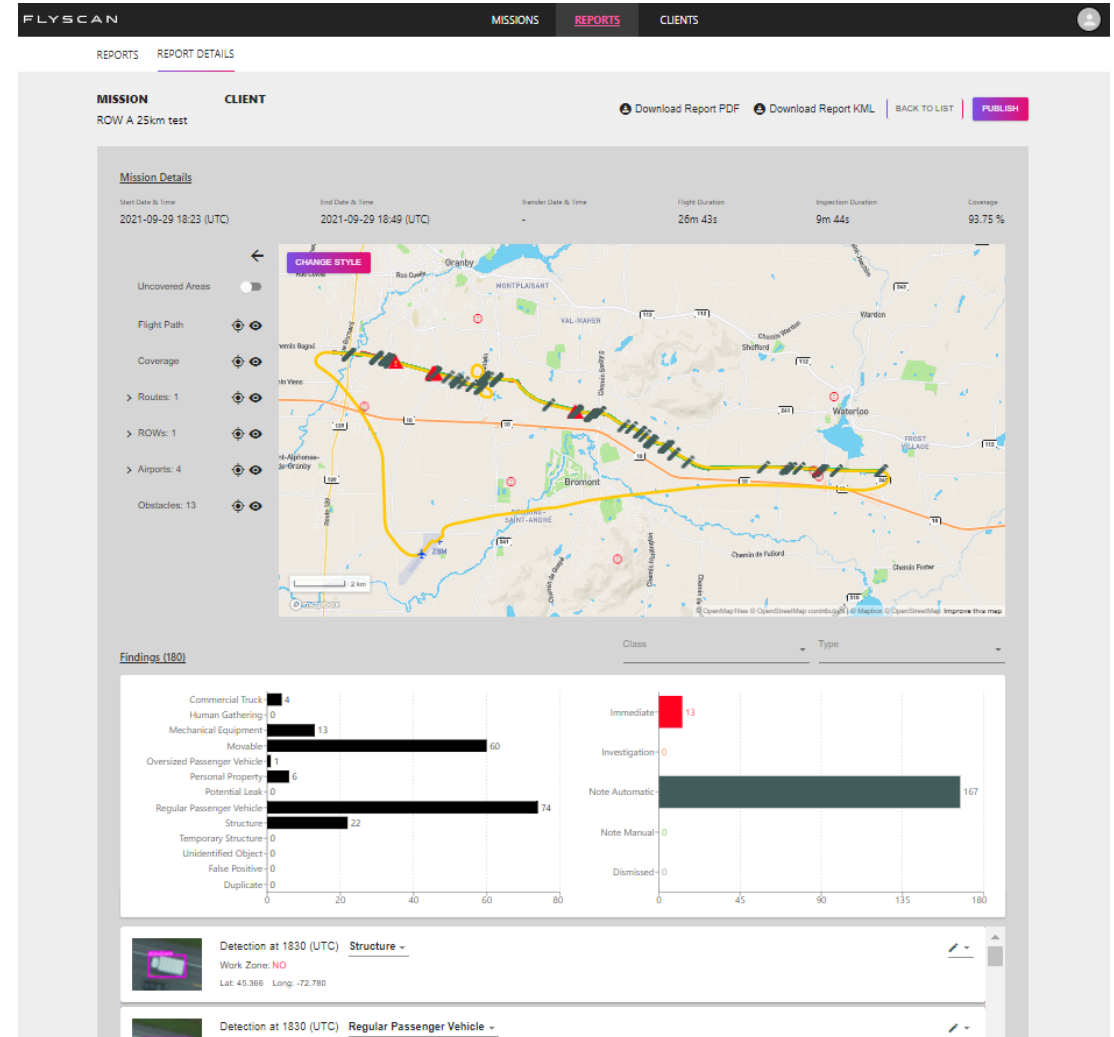
12

Initial Release 4Q21:

1. Regular Passenger Vehicles
2. Oversized Passenger Vehicles
3. Commercial Truck
4. Mechanical Equipment
5. Movable
6. Structure
7. Personal Property
8. Recreational off road vehicles
9. Customer specific vehicles

New classes to be released 2Q24:

1. Drainage tile detection
2. Erosion indicators
3. Exposed pipe



Automated Threat Detection Details

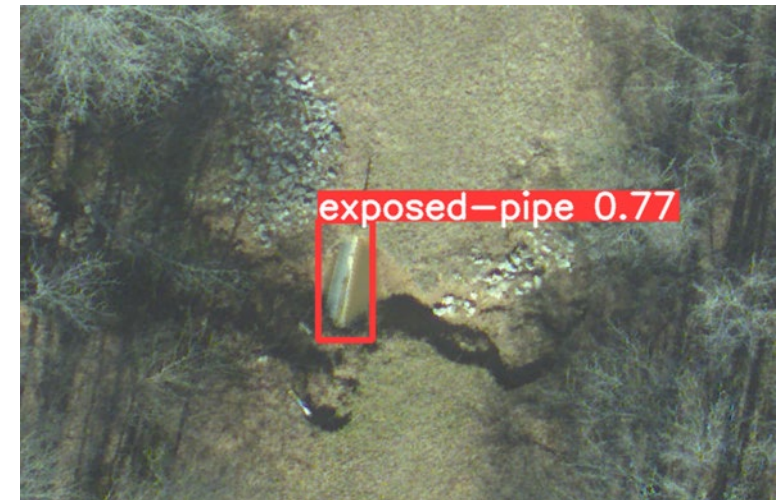
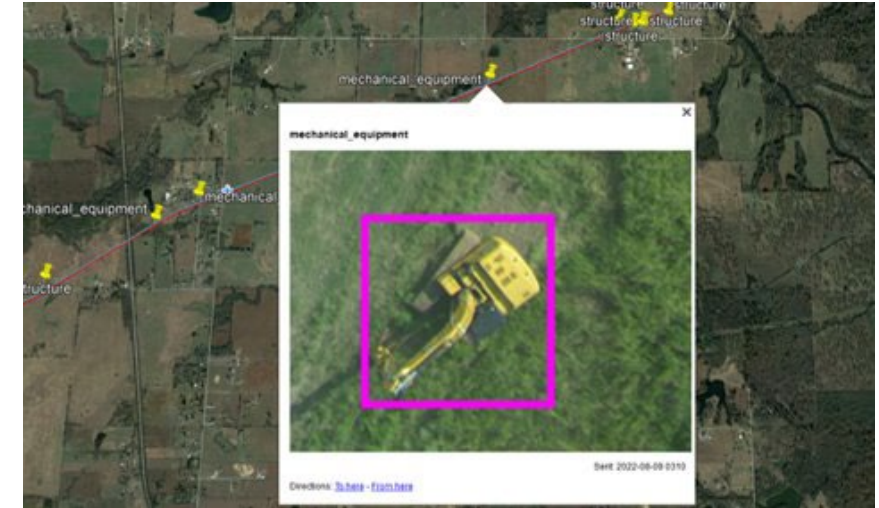
13

Expanding the capabilities of pipeline patrol with automation

- **Third-Party Threats:**
 - Mechanical Equipment
 - Vehicles (commercial, passenger, recreational, customer specific)
- **Encroachments:**
 - Structures
 - Movable Objects
 - Personal Property
- **Potential Leaks**

New capabilities coming in Q2 2024:

- Operational Threats (Exposed Pipe)
- Additional Third-Party Threats (Drainage Tile, Agricultural Activity)
- Natural Force Threats (Geohazard Indicators)



Automated Exposed Pipeline Detection

14



Real-time Notifications During Flight

15

Notifications via text, email and/or integration with ticket applications

Threat description, GPS and Photo included



Real-time notification example



Real “encroachment” detected

Hyperspectral Liquid Leak Detection Solution - Principle

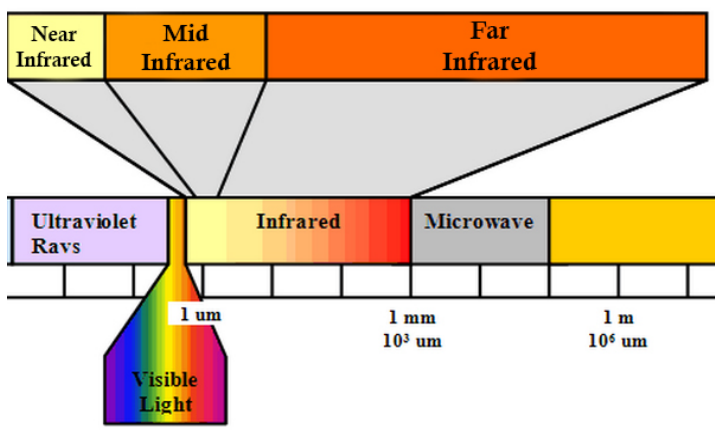
16



1. This passive system uses the sun's power



3. This signature is detected using sophisticated algorithms to detect



2. As the light rays bounce from the ground they get imprinted with the spectral signature of the material

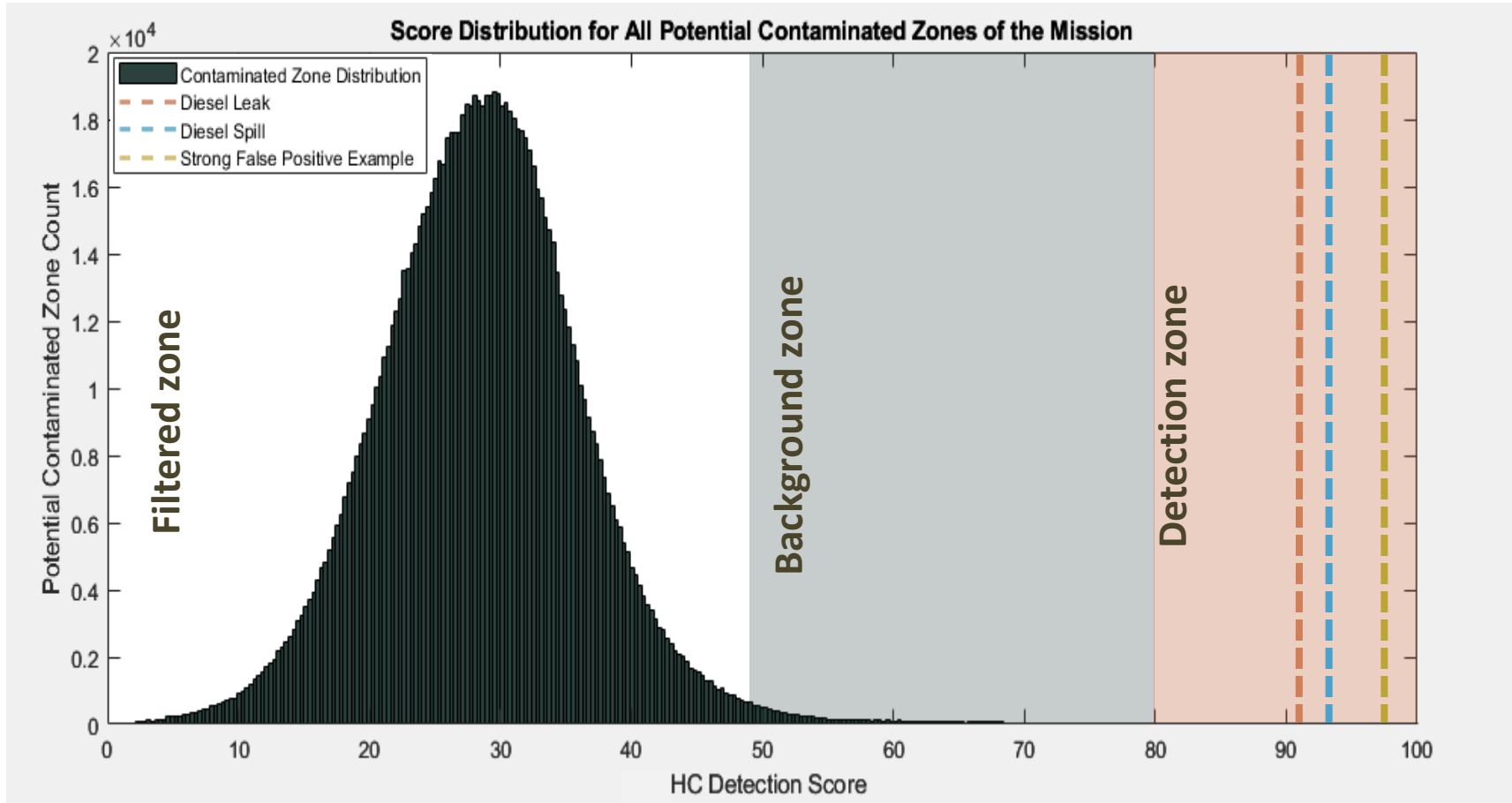




Results From Regular Patrols Using the Technology

Actionable insights

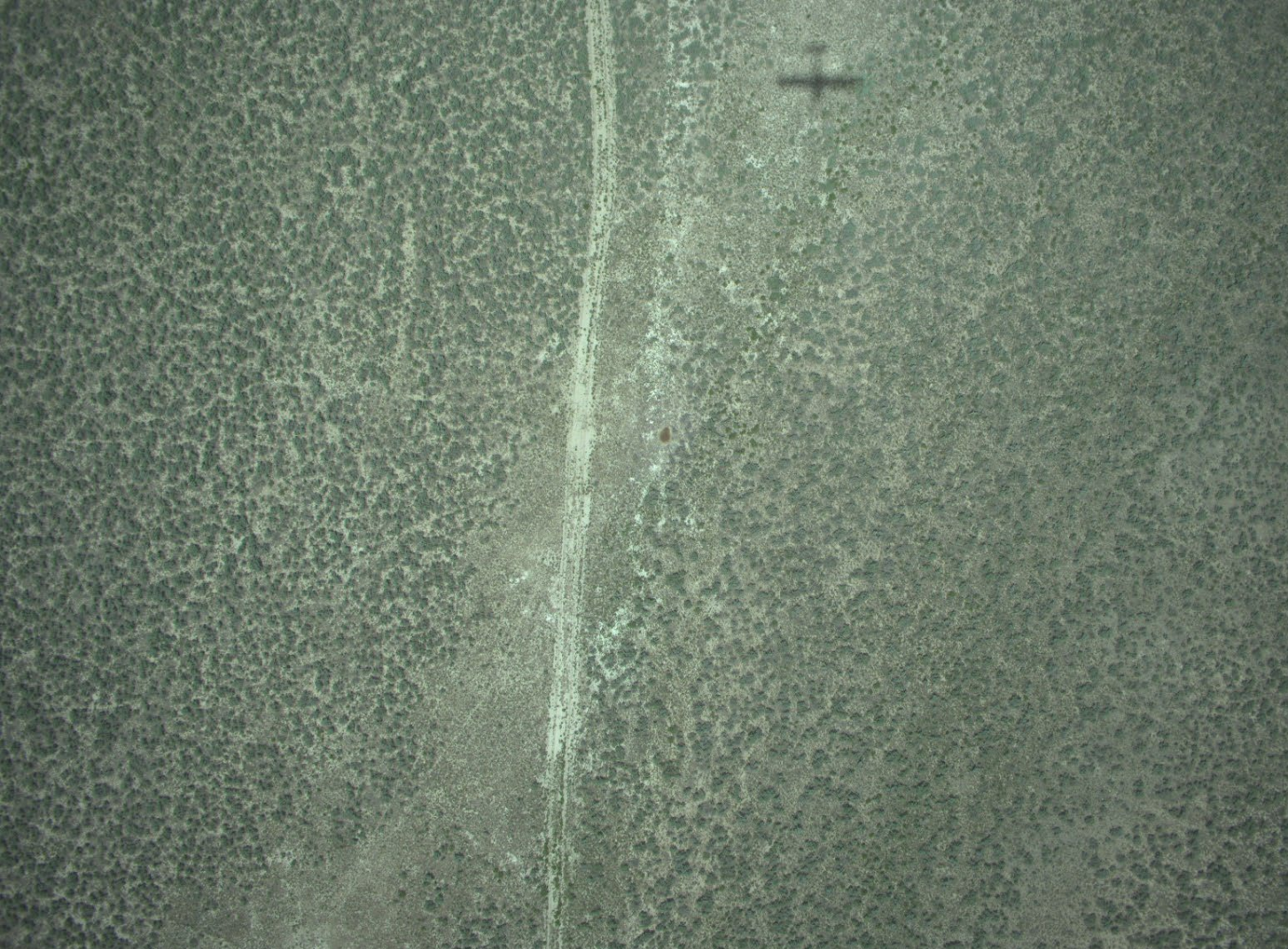
Seeper Leak and Diesel Spill Detection Score



Liquid hydrocarbon detection algorithm distribution

Real Seeper Leak Detection - Diesel Pipeline

19



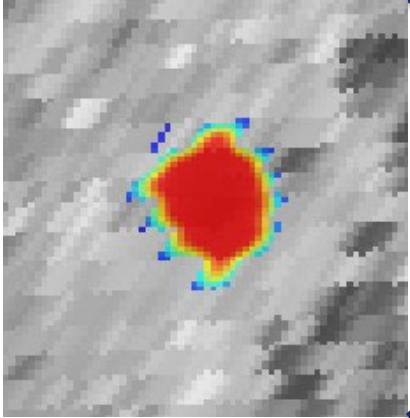
- Picture shows pilot's view at 550 feet
- No visible sign of diesel at the surface
- Leak probably ongoing for months
- Regular air patrol never reported anything

Real Seeper Leak Detection – Diesel Pipeline

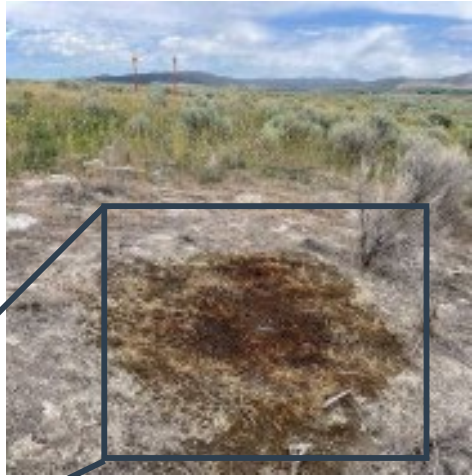
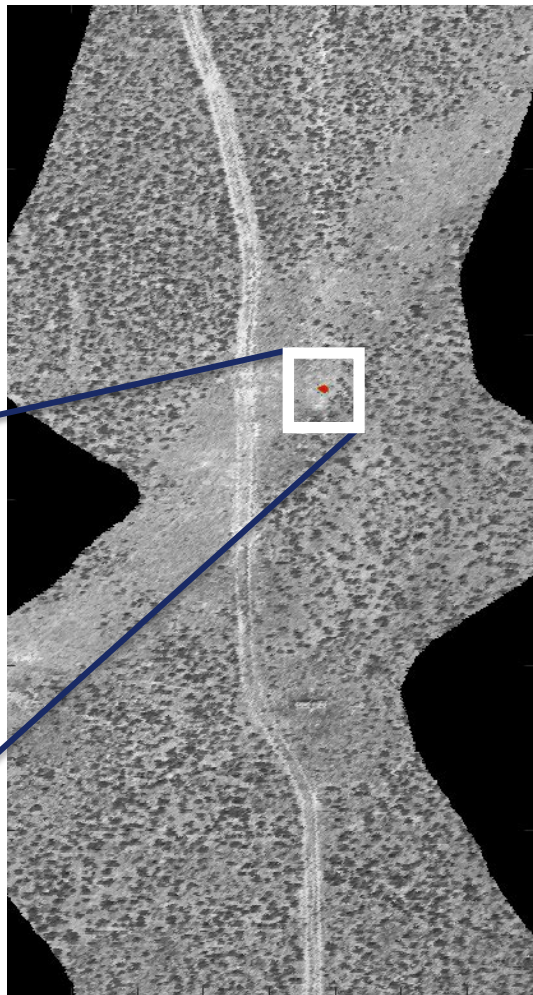
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Size: 2.2 m²
Detection score: 93.25
Estimated volume: 54 bbls*
Estimated leak rate: <0.1 BPH
Possible cause: Corrosion

Slow leak over several months
well below CPM sensitivity



Hyperspectral
Detection



As Seen On the Ground – Diesel Seeper Leak

21



Repair and Clean-up Documentation

22



After site clean-up, no
hyperspectral detection of
liquid hydrocarbons



Other Reported Detection Examples NOT caused by leaks

Examples of ground-validated detection during
commercial operations on the ROW and within facilities

Diesel Contamination NOT caused by the pipeline

24

Picture shows pilot's view at 550 feet

No visible sign of diesel at the surface

Observation affected by:

- Speed of flight
- Navigation
- Communications
- Fatigue



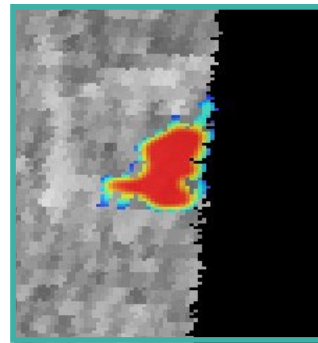
Diesel Spill – Picked-up by Hyperspectral Algorithm

25

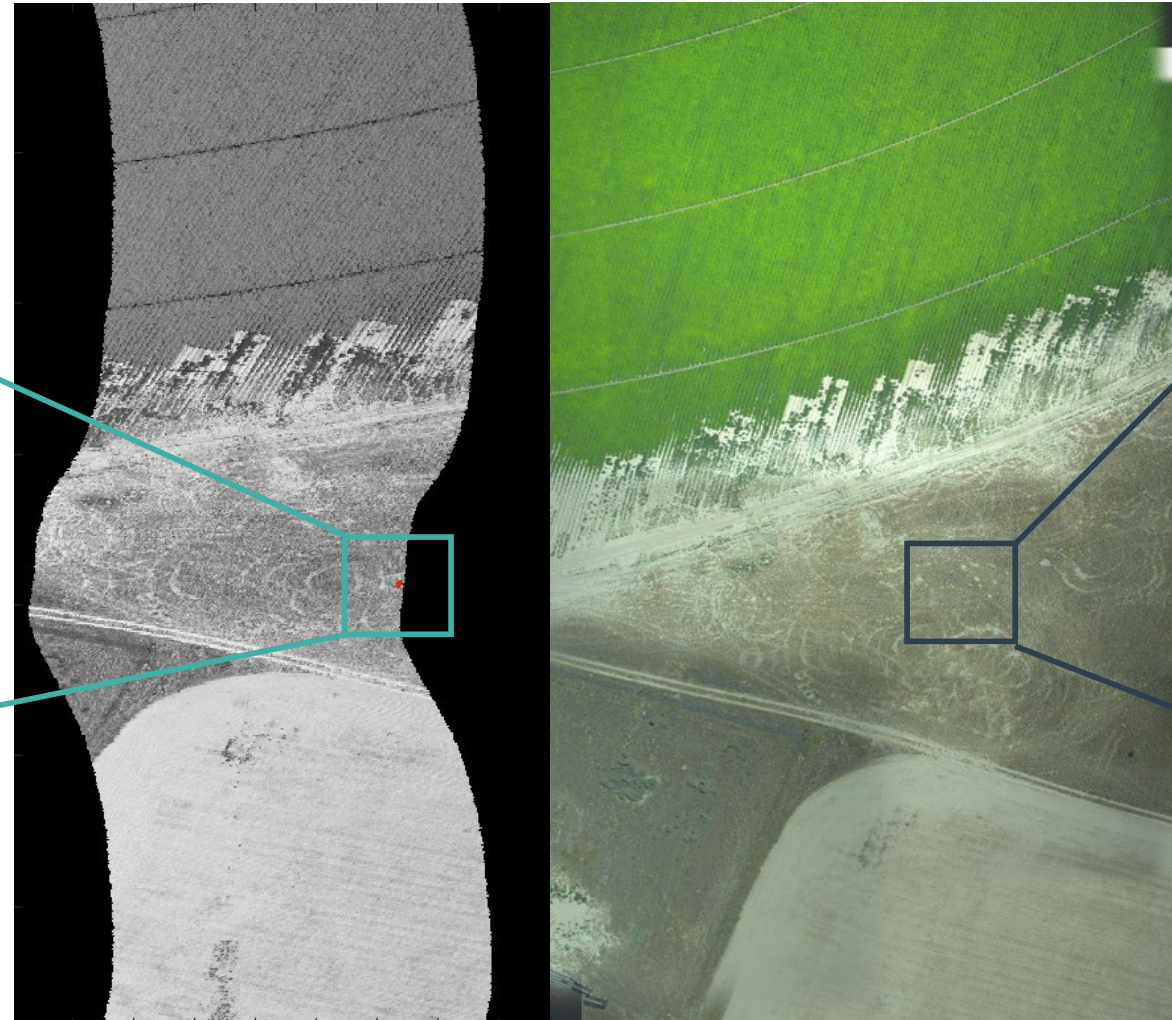
Size: 3.5 m²

Detection score: 91.1

Automatic detection
using the **hyperspectral**
algorithm



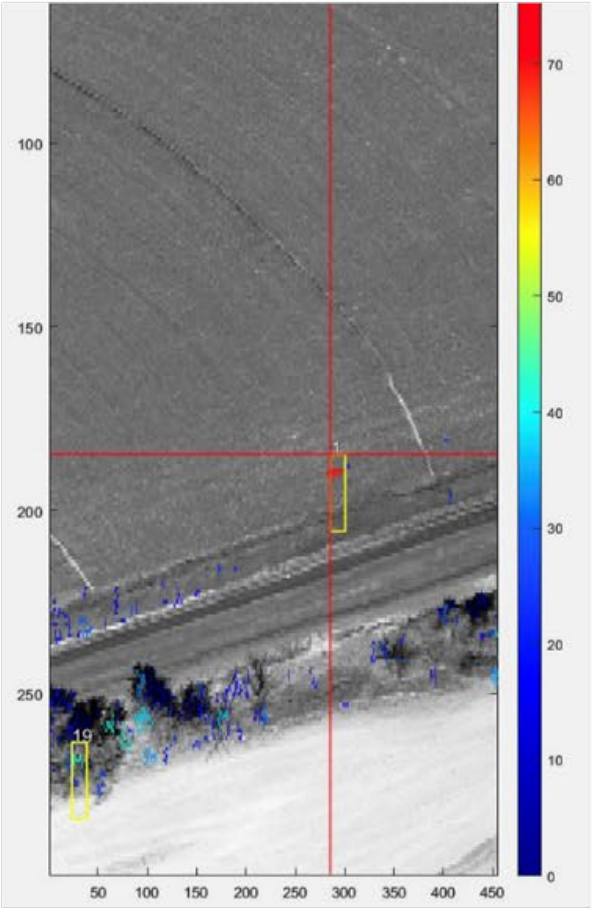
- Spill occurred close to pipeline
- Probable source: agriculture equipment



Diesel Contaminated Vegetation



As seen from the plane



Hyperspectral



At the surface

Crude Oil Pool Detected

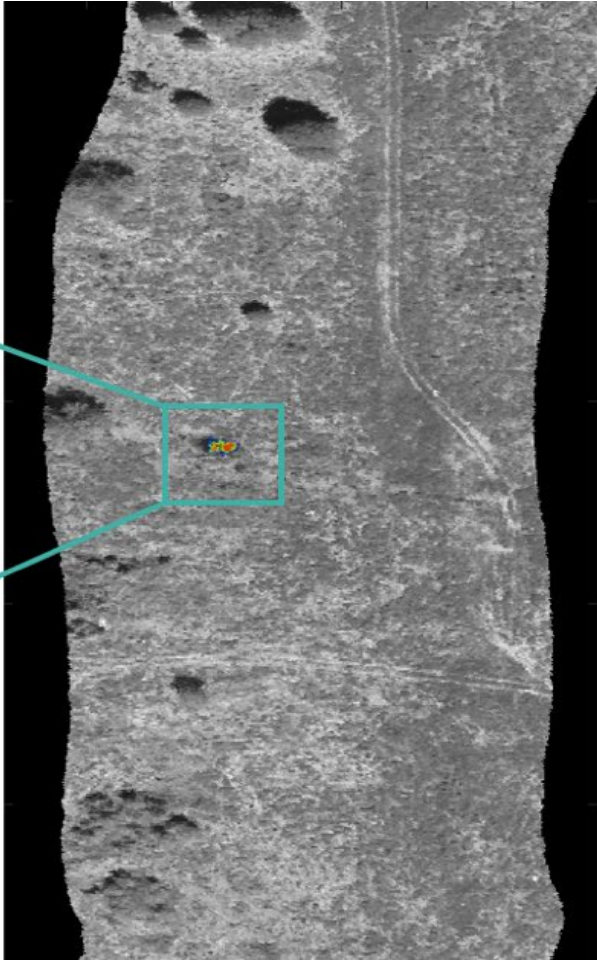
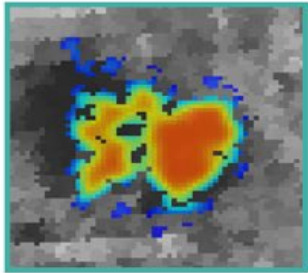
27



- Picture shows pilot's view at 550 feet
- No visible sign of crude at the surface

Crude Oil Pool Detected

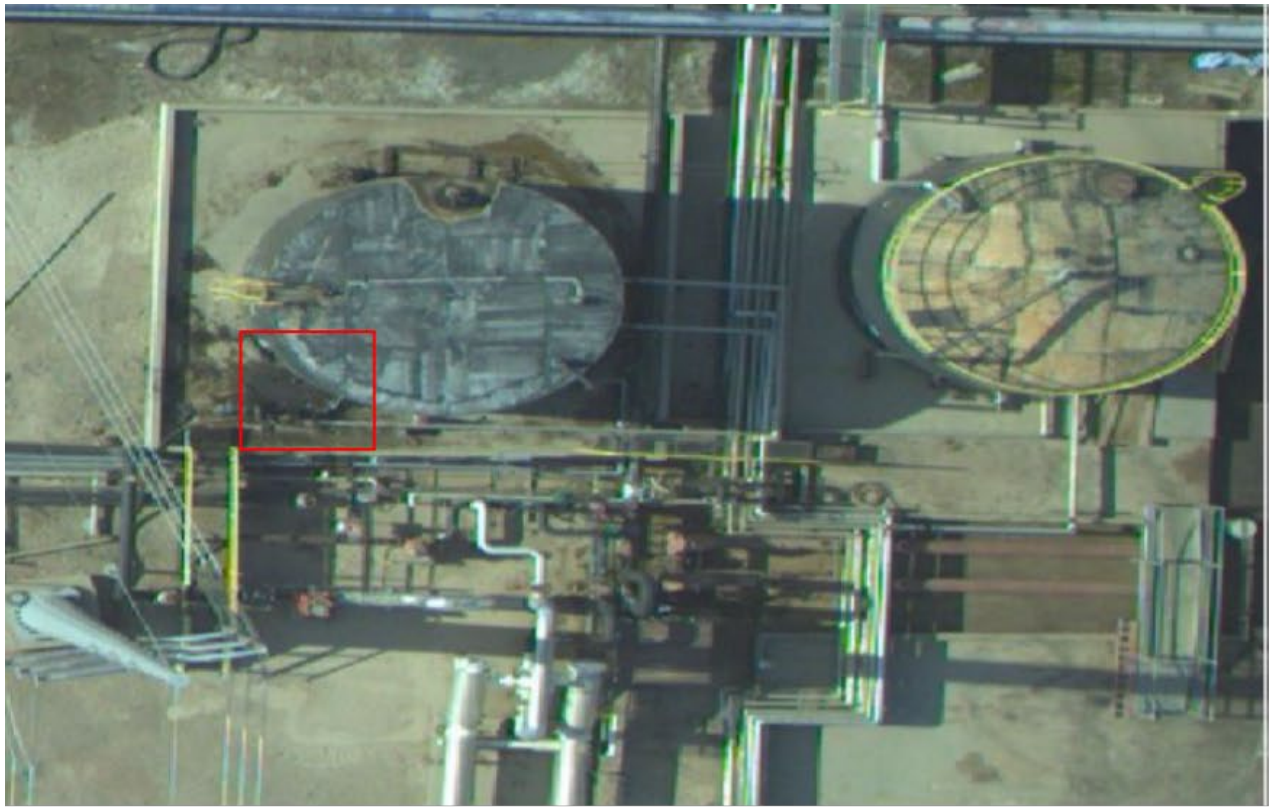
Automatic detection
using the **hyperspectral**
algorithm



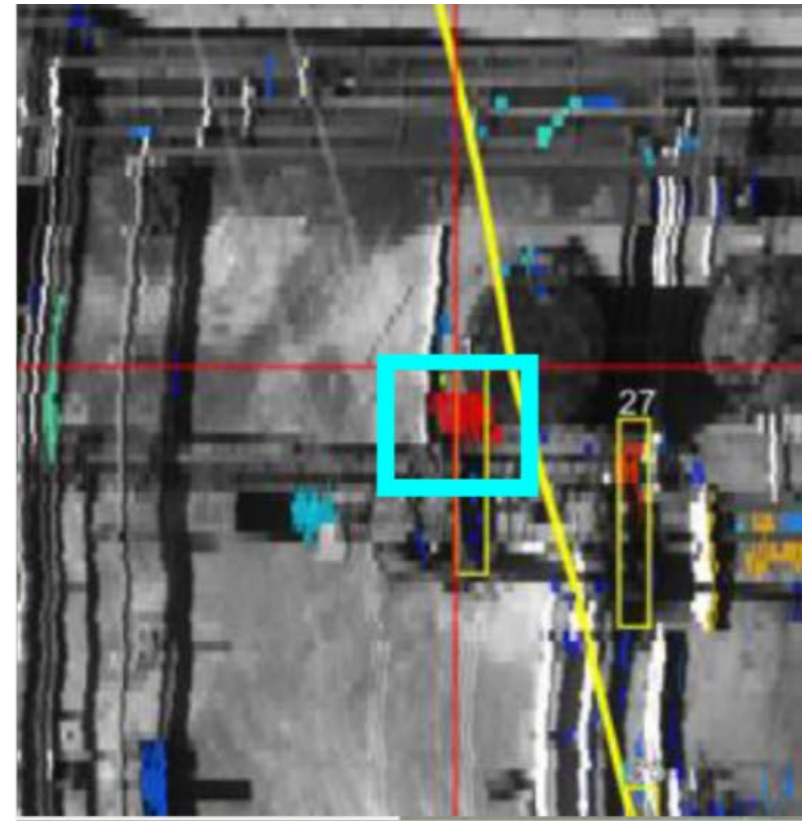
Crude oil pool on
the surface

Contamination Detected Within Facilities

29



Aerial zoomed-in image



Hyperspectral

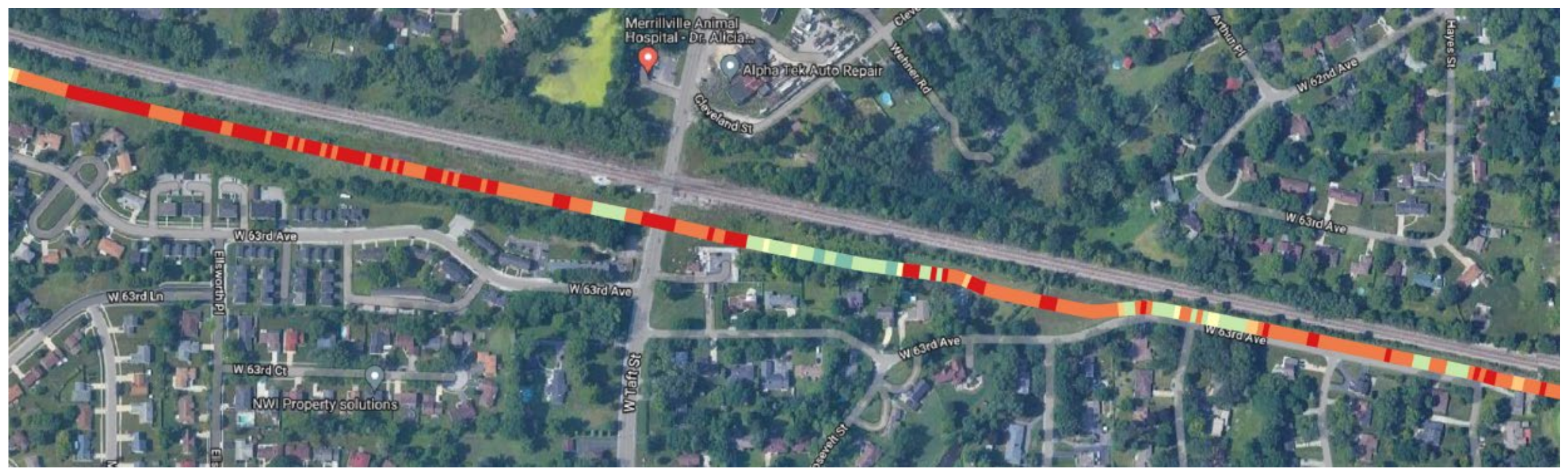
2D Orthomosaics and 3D Rendering

30

**Landslide
reconstructed
with a high
resolution
orthophoto
mosaic overlaid
on its
corresponding
DSM**



Depth of Cover Analysis – Under Development



Roadmap – New features to be implemented in 2024

32

1. Liquid leak detection for gathering lines, including produced water
2. Shared ROW multi-operator inspection
3. Methane (CH₄) leak detection on gathering and transmission lines
4. Geo-hazards alerts (land slippage, erosion)
5. Post-extreme weather and natural disaster analysis (§ 195.414)
6. Vegetation management tools
7. Early leak detection through stressed vegetation analysis

MPL Pilot Summary

33

- Pilot successfully conducted from November 2022 to December 2023
- Over 42,000 miles of pipe inspected - 7.5 million images collected
- Automated threat detection:
 - No known misses of staged or known ROW activity
 - Averaged 4 new conflicts beyond traditional patrol per 1000 miles inspected
- Passive leak detection:
 - Detection of a real pipeline seep release
 - Multiple positive detections of saturated soil
- Proof-of-Concepts:
 - Exposed Pipe Detection – 32 previously unknown
 - Vegetation Management



Traditional Patrol



Flyscan Inspection



Thank you



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