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**Title:** 3D Background Oriented Schlieren Imaging to Detect  
Aerial Improvised Explosive Devices

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# 3D Background Oriented Schlieren Imaging to Detect Aerial Improvised Explosive Devices

Chris Oshman, Dustin Demoin, Michael Ham

## Mentors

Dr. Garrett Kenyon

Dr. Harald Dogliani

# TEAM

- Chris Oshman - Ph.D Mechanical Engineering (MEMS Fabrication of Thermal/Fluidic Systems)
- Dustin Demoin - Chemistry graduate student at University of Missouri - Columbia working on a radiopharmaceutical project
- Michael Ham - LANL P21 Image processing





[www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)



[blog.heritage.org](http://blog.heritage.org)

Rezwan Ferdaus

GPS guided UAS

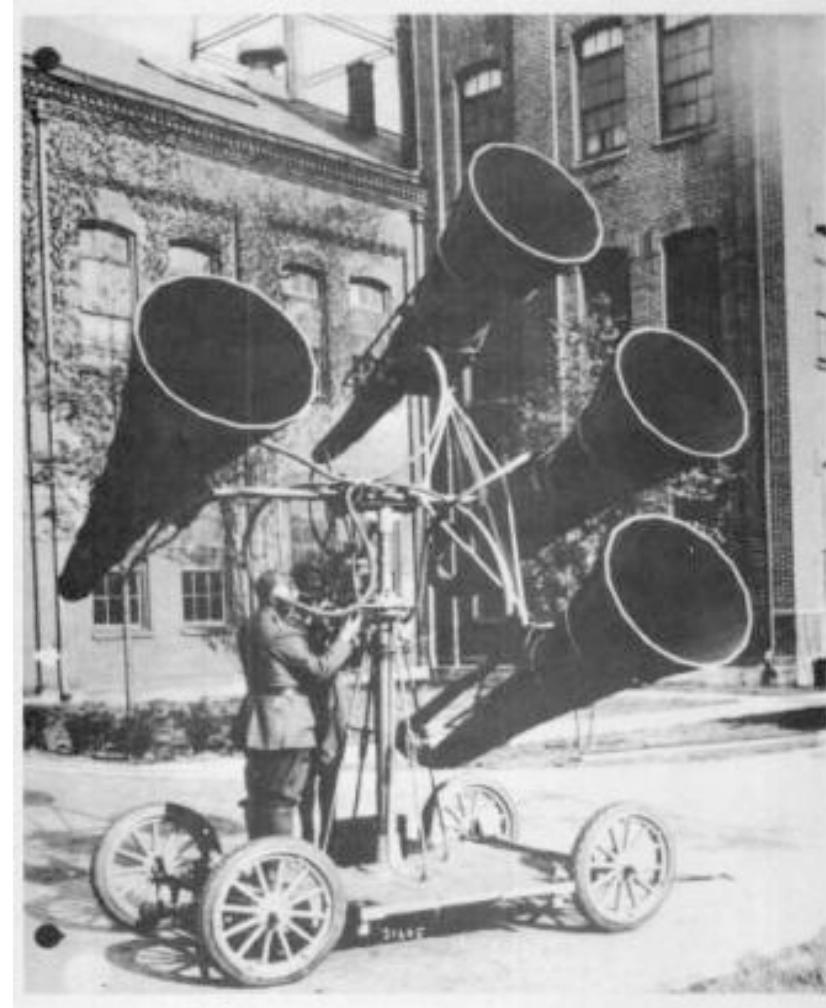
- 2011 - arrested for plotting to fly 3 remote control planes into the US Capitol and the Pentagon
- \$6500 remote-controlled plane that could be guided by GPS and fly at 100mph (160km/h).

# Prevent a UAS 'Boston'

- UASs will become common for commercial use
- Rapidly advancing technology such as silent engines, better batteries, GPS, surveillance
- Small UAS platforms in the real world are difficult to detect.

-Keith Lindsay, LANL

# Aircraft Detection Technologies



Early Aircraft Sound Detection  
[dodlive.mil](http://dodlive.mil)

# RAdio Detection and Ranging



<http://computer.yourdictionary.com/radar>

UG/GGS Information Services

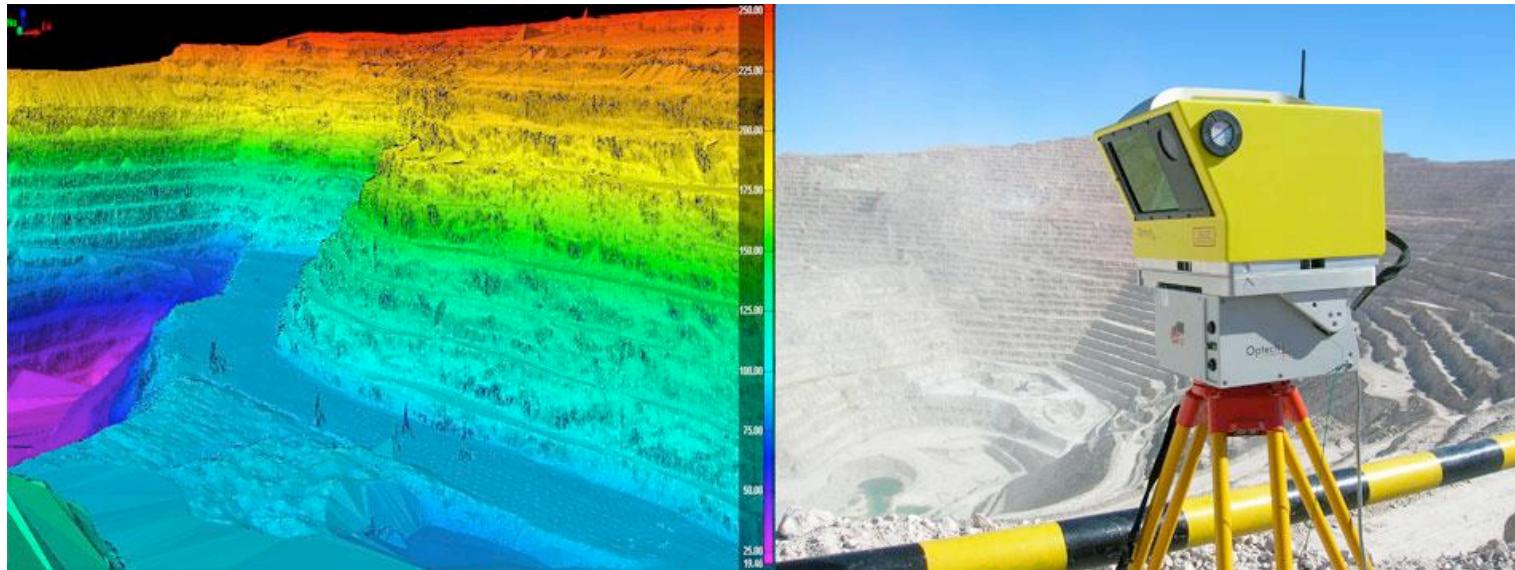
Small UASs - low radar cross section,  
stealth possibilities



**UAS**  
Detection

# LIDAR

## Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging

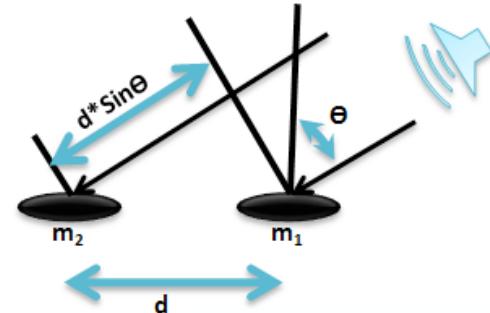


[http://www.mapping-solutions.co.uk/applications/images/lidar\\_mining.jpg](http://www.mapping-solutions.co.uk/applications/images/lidar_mining.jpg)

Least expensive LIDAR system ~\$20,000

# Acoustic Source Localization

- Use of microphone array
- Detect and characterize UAV
  - Are there changes to UAV sound based on payload, modifications from designer, age of system, etc.?
  - How big would your library of sounds need to be to account for differences?
  - Limited range
  - Active research to decrease noise
  - Use swarm



$$\theta = \sin^{-1} \left[ \frac{\zeta * C}{f_s * d} \right]$$

C – Speed of sound  
 $\zeta$  – Time Delay between Microphones  
 $f_s$  – Signal Sampling frequency  
d – Inter Microphone Distance

# IR

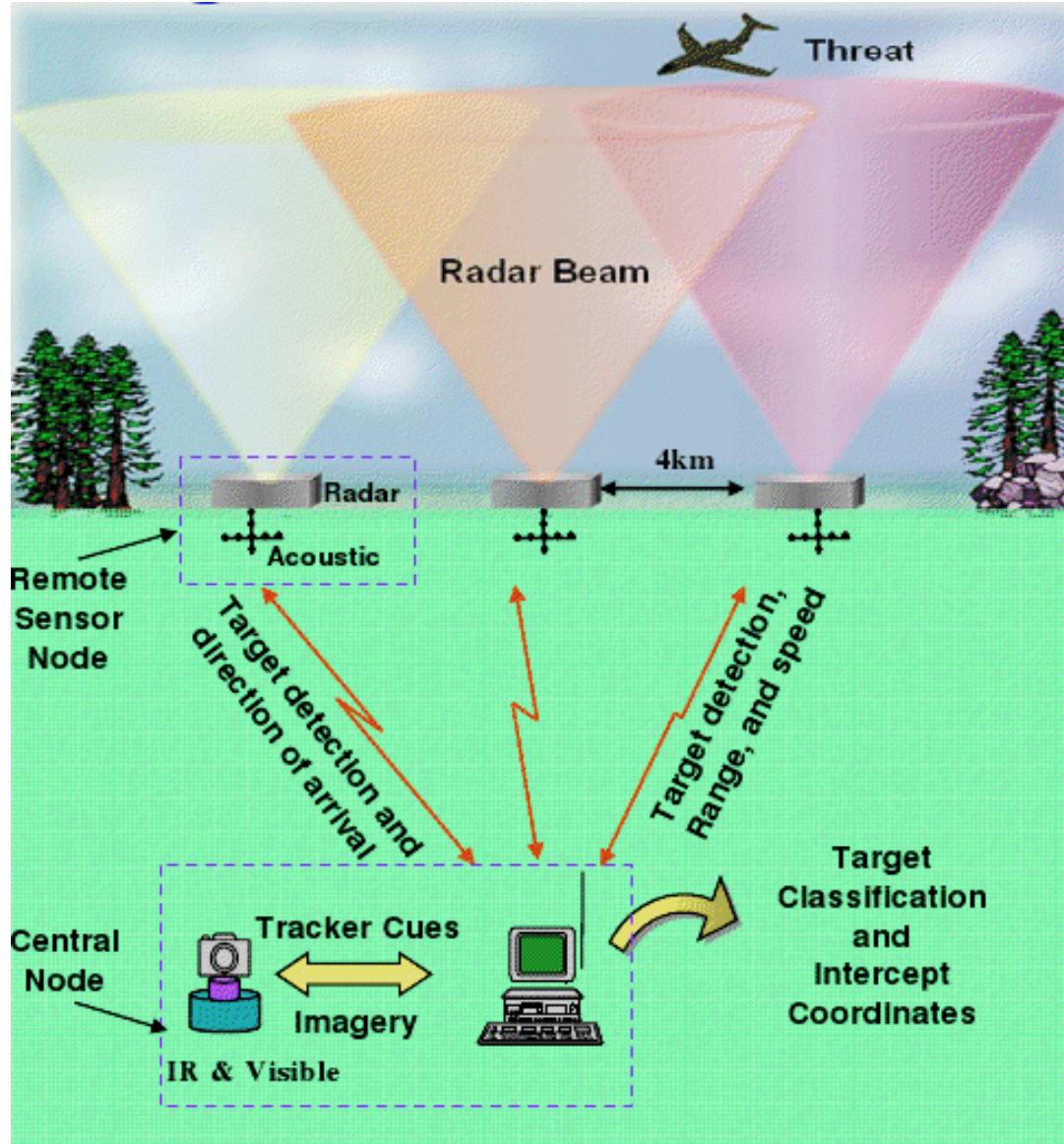
## Infrared Detection of Heat Signature

- Proof of concept showed use at 5 km possible for Cessna-sized UAS
- Active research to reduce heat signature



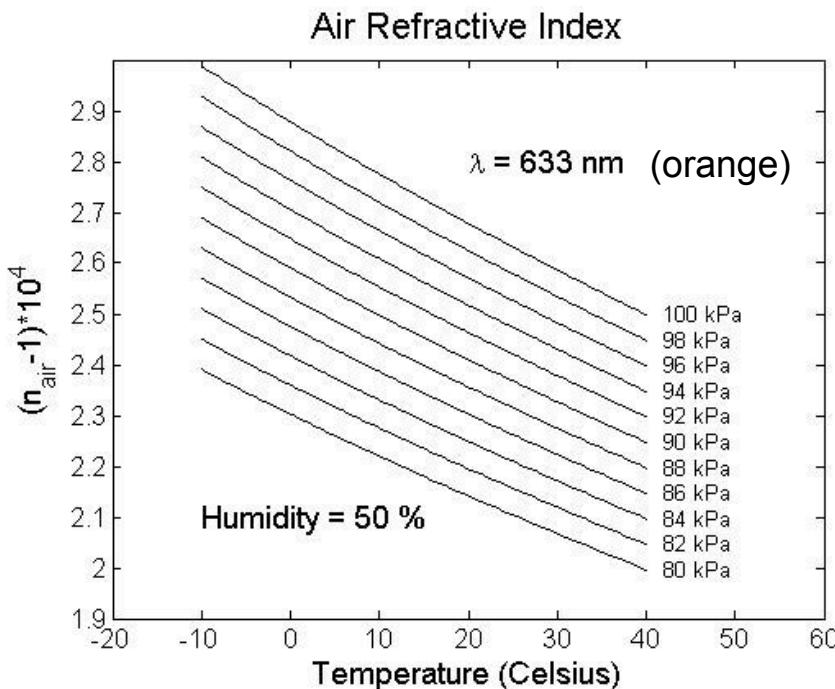
Weiqun, S., G. Arabadjis, B. Bishop, P. Hill and R. Plasse (2007). Development of an Experimental Prototype Multi-Modal Netted Sensor Fence for Homeland Defense and Border Integrity. Technologies for Homeland Security, 2007 IEEE Conference on.

# Sensor Fence

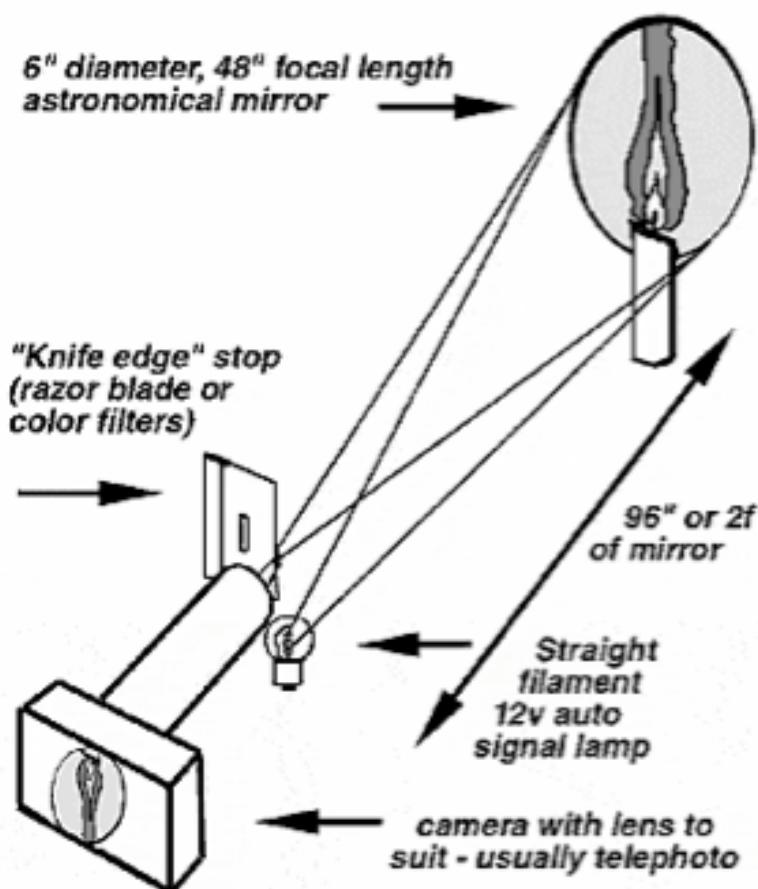


Weiqun, S. et al.

# Physics of Schlieren

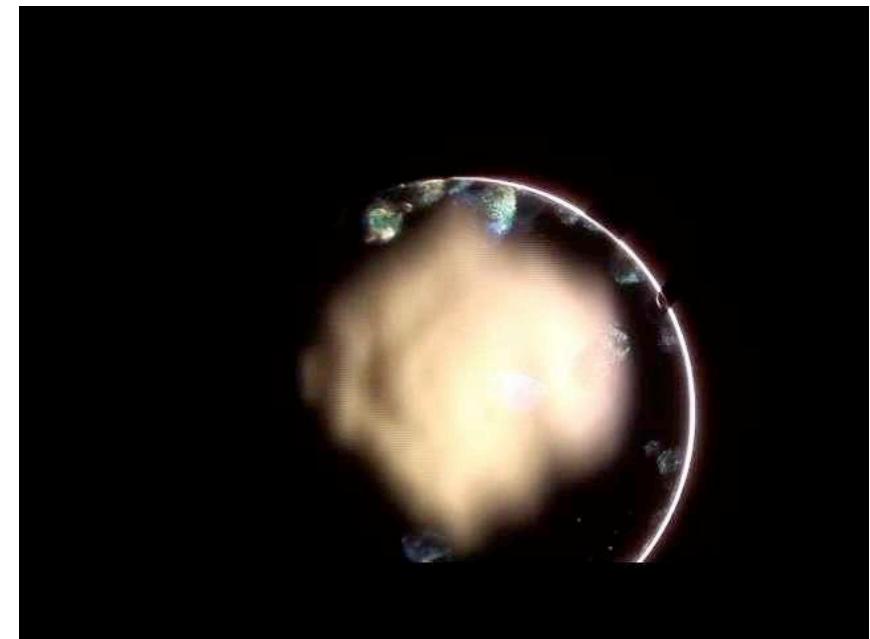


[www.mathworks.com](http://www.mathworks.com)



[www.rit.edu](http://www.rit.edu)

# Traditional Schlieren in Action

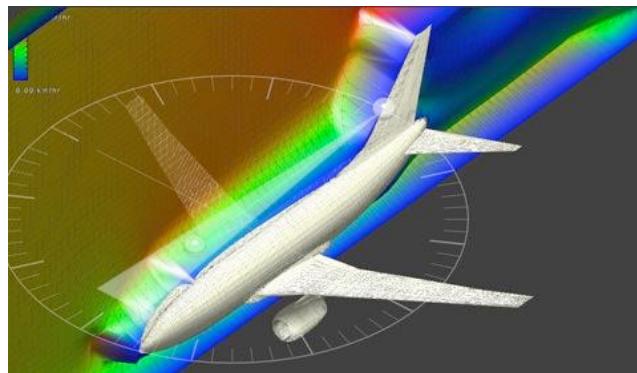


[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

# Technique works by...

Searching for changes in index of refraction caused by:

Pressure



[www.deskeng.com](http://www.deskeng.com)

Temperature



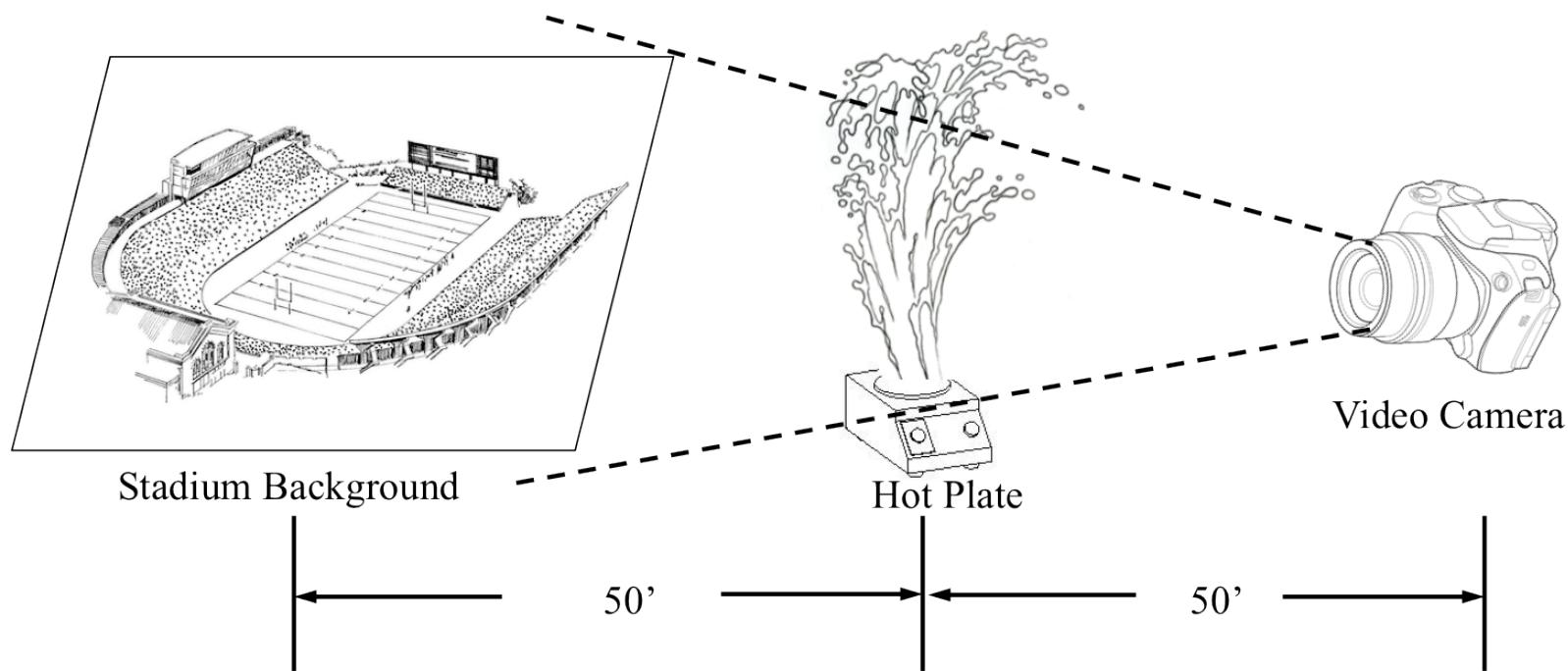
[www.fluke.com](http://www.fluke.com)

Exhaust



[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

# Background Oriented Schlieren (aka BOS)



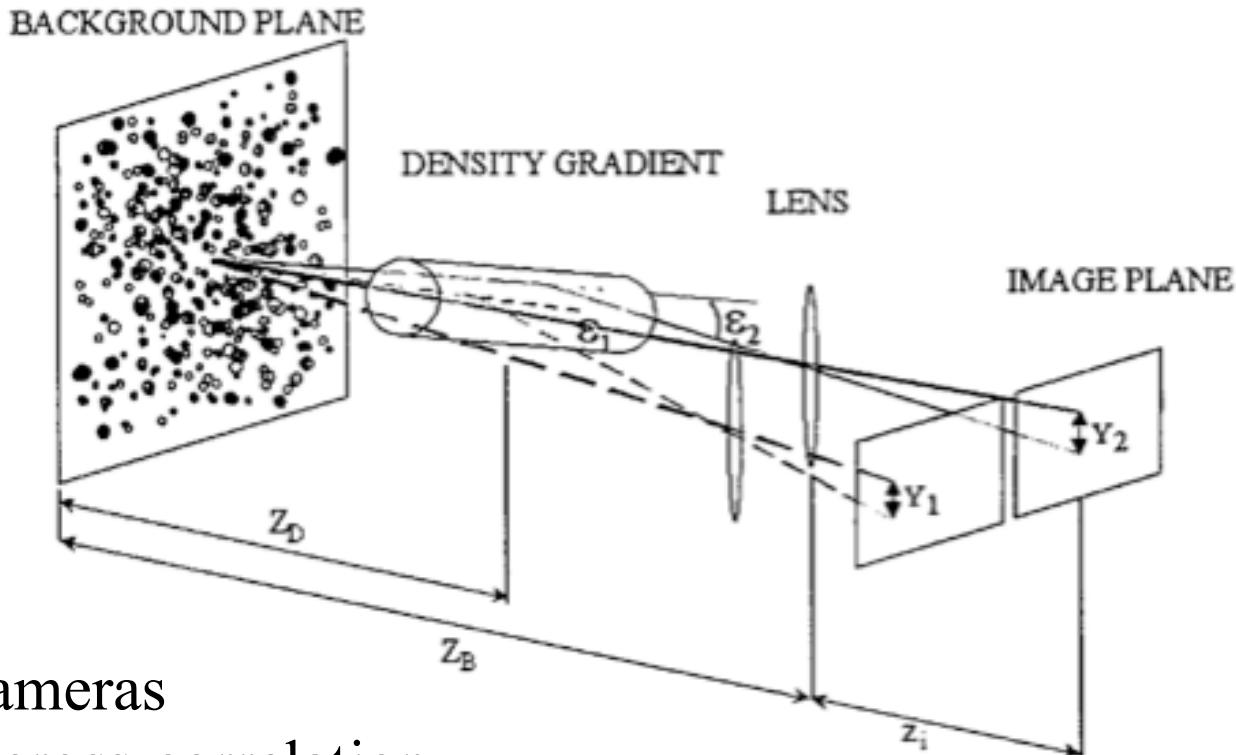
# BOS Proof of Concept



- Typical urban background target (crowded stadium)
- Hot plate at 200 °C creating air disturbance
- Detectable plume from 50' distance

# BOSS

(Background Oriented Stereoscopic Schlieren)



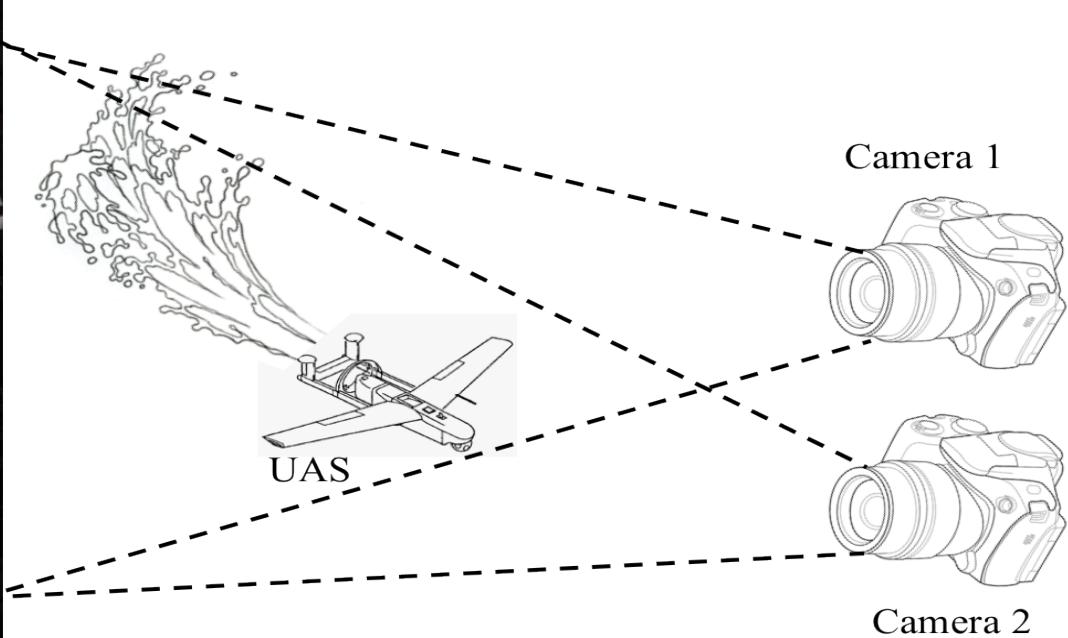
- Two cameras
- Image cross-correlation
- Added distance dimensionality

Richard, H.. European Research Office, 2001

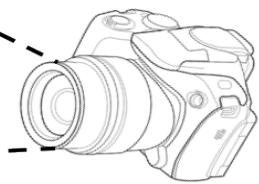
# BOSS Video



Urban Landscape



Camera 1



Camera 2



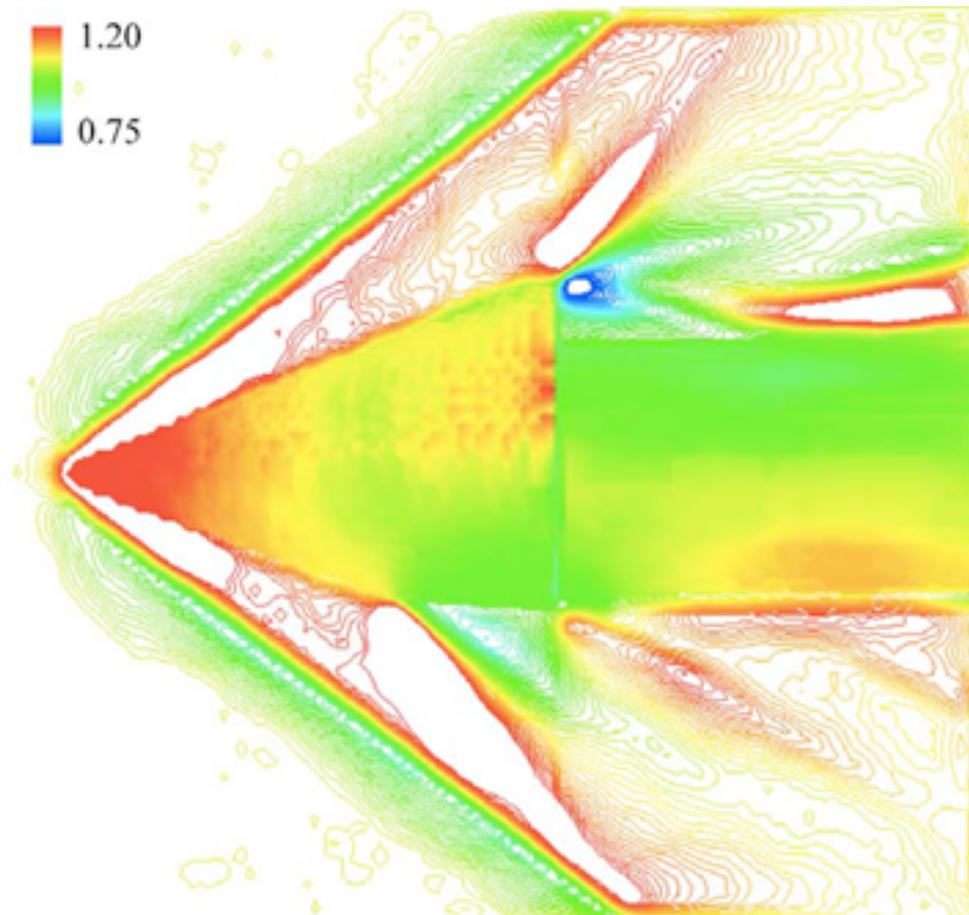
Dyed Smoke in vapor plume from a landing airplane.

Airplane through a cloud.



# 3D-BOS

## Imaging air flow around an object in a wind tunnel

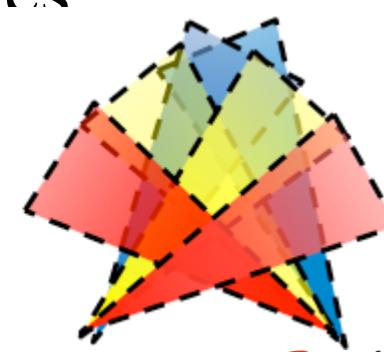


Ota et al. "Computed-tomographic density measurement of supersonic flow field by colored-grid background oriented schlieren (CGBOS) technique." 2011.

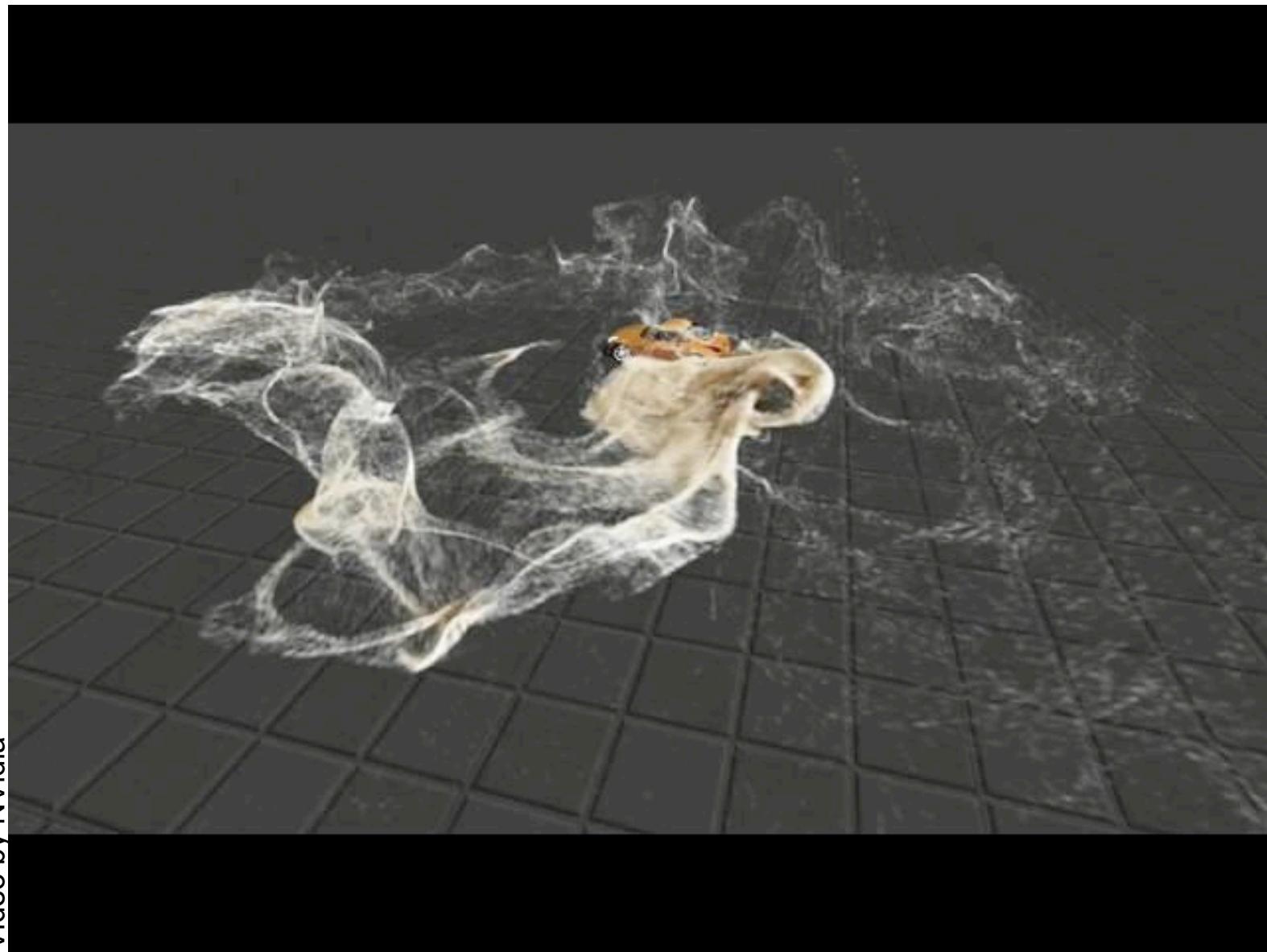
# 3D-BOSS

## 3-D Reference-Free Background-Oriented Schlieren

- Utilize stereoscopic views from cameras to generate 3-D air flow and then sweep the area to determine the changes in the air with respect to the movement along an axis
- Need image reconstruction abilities

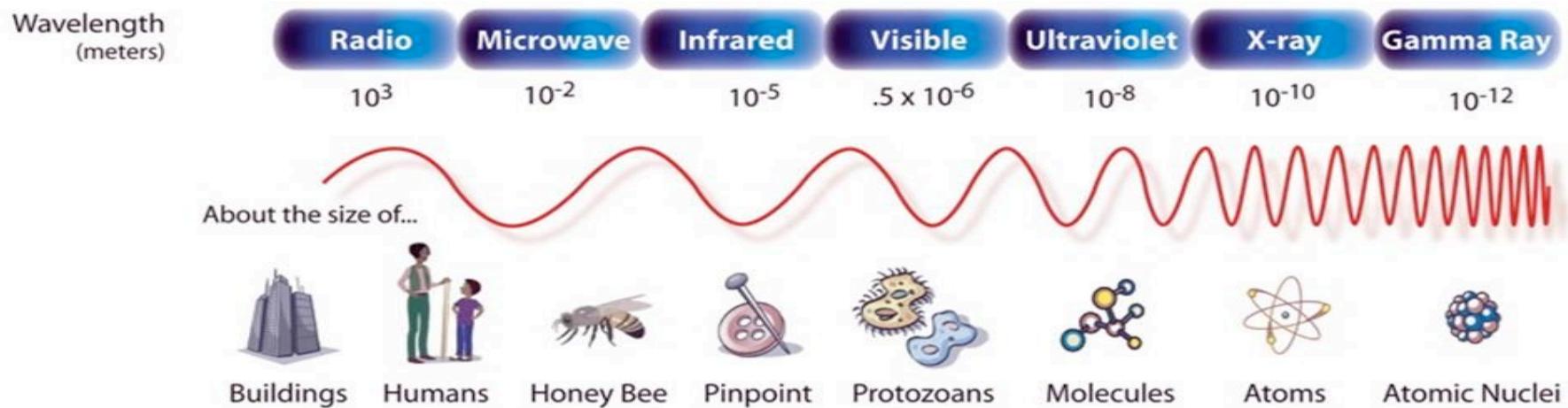


# End Goal



# Alternate Wavelength 3D-BOSS

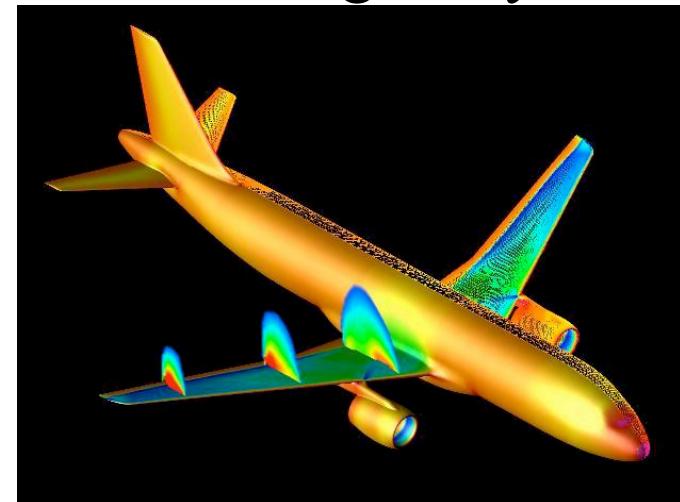
- Explore Schlieren imaging using non-visible wavelengths
- IR, Ultraviolet, microwave, etc.



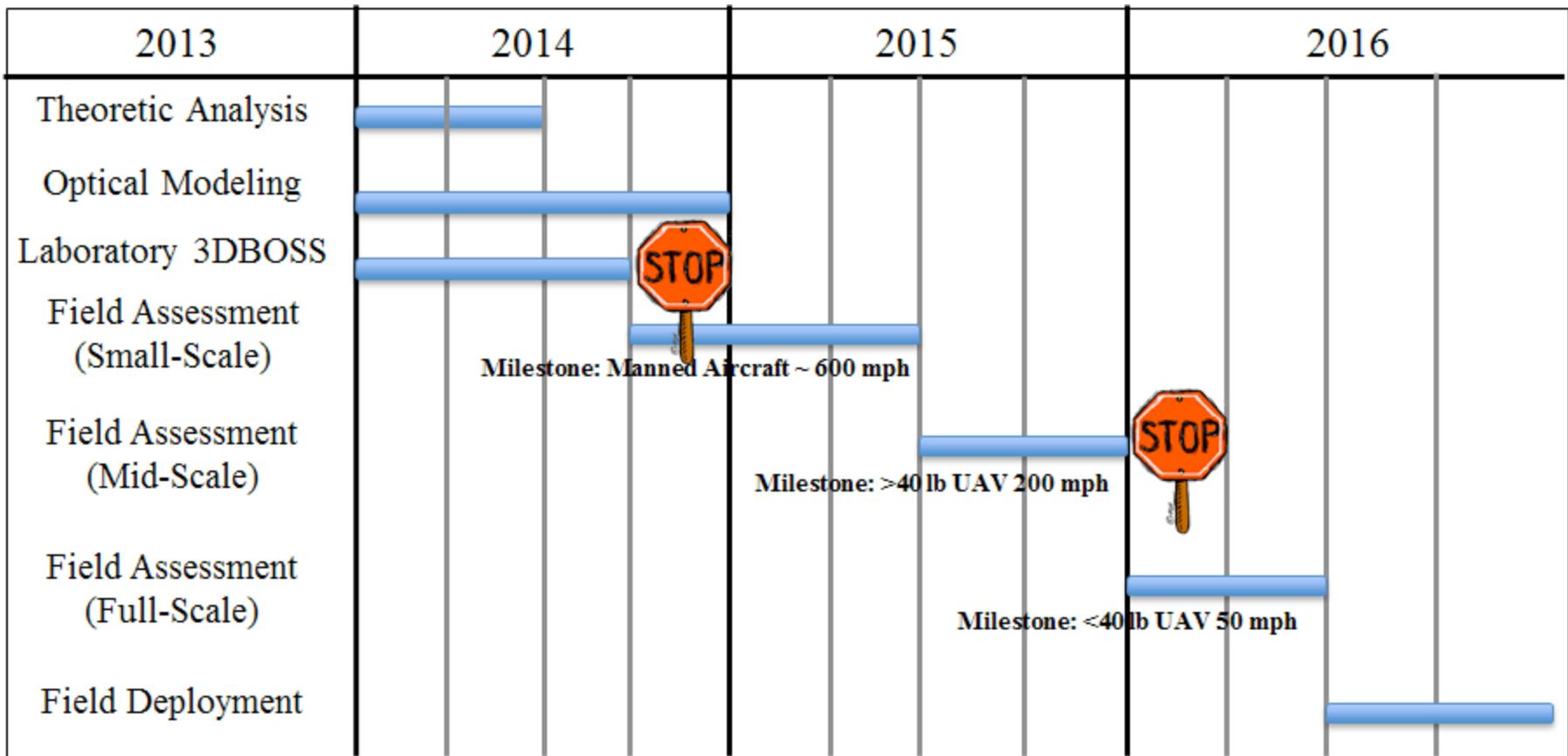
[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

# Potential Issues

- Long distance imaging may prove very challenging
- Air pressure change from propellers and wings may be too subtle for detection



# Milestones



# Budget Justification

- 4 full-time graduate students
- 2 full-time postdocs
- 2 half-time staff members
- Additional funds will be used to promote interdisciplinary ties between LANL subject matter experts and our research group
- \$200k a year for materials and travel.
  - Variety of cameras
  - Image analysis equipment
  - Image processing software

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**\$1.18M/yr for 3 years**  
BIDS  
Detection

# Impact at LANL

- Addition line of defense from unfriendly UAS attack
- Portable lightweight system for vehicle mounting or even for use by the individual warfighter



[persianblog.ir](#)



[army.gov](#)



[wikimedia.com](#)

## World Impact

- Turbulence detection for commercial air travel
- Tool for weather prediction
- Introduction of new technology



[cnn.com](#)