



UX-1Neo - A robotic explorer for flooded mines, caves and tunnels

About us

The Unexmin Georobotics Ltd. (UGR) is a start-up provides surveying services for flooded underground environments. Our technology is uniquely developed to handle these harsh environments.



Pioneers in robotic solutions for flooded enviroments

About us

- Total of **5 robots**: UX1a, UX1b, UX1c, UX1-Mara, UX1-Neo
- Total of **8 different sites**: Kaatiala (Finland), Idrija (Slovenia), Urgeirica (Portugal), Ecton (UK), Molnár János (Hungary), Csór (Hungary), Solotvyno (Ukraine), South Crofty (UK)

Summary of all missions:

- Over **18 missions** in 8 different sites
- Over **80 dives**
- Over **300 hours** of diving
- More than **2 million** captured images





Our technology



Characteristics

- Modular
- Swappable batteries
- Removable disk enclosure
- HDPE frame
- 10 Gb fibre optical umbilical
- Depth: 500m (target depth: 1500m)
- 2600 Wh
- >8h operation
- Dimensions: 700 x 620 mm
- Approx. Weight: <90kg



Navigational Instruments

- Multibeam sonar
- 2 scanning sonars
- 6 cameras with onboard processing
- Flotation foam
- Full 6 DOF thrusters control
- 6 structures light system (SLS) units
- Pressure tolerant pendulum

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Underwater connectors and cabling





Our technology



Geoscientific instrumentation

- Multi/hyperspectral imaging
- Sub-bottom sonar
- Water parameter measurements
- Water sampling
- Underwater rock sampling
- Gamma measurements
- Flux-gate magnetometer



Field work - Kaatiala Mine, Finland

- Open-pit, flooded pegmatite mine
- Open-surface water
- Underwater tunnels with
 hugh openings









Field work - Idrija Mercury Mine, Slovenia

- UNESCO World Heritage
- Underground mine
- 90% of the mine workings are flooded
- Water surface is 176 m below the surface
- Dirty, opaque water
- Several underwater obstacles





Field work - Urgeiriça Uranium Mine, Portugal

- Remediated, closed uranium mine
- Underground mine workings
- All the tunnels and shafts are flooded
- Water surface is 5 m below the surface
- Clear water from ~20 m depth





Field work - Urgeiriça Uranium Mine, Portugal



The UX-1Neo reached the bottom at 186 m (view from down camera)





Field work - Urgeiriça Uranium Mine, Portugal

RGB cameras



In case of **low** visibility, the robot **can** still navigate using **laser** and **sonar** information

Raw data from lasers (SLS)



Field work - Urgeiriça, Portugal - Photogrammetry example

The **2k resolution** RGB camera images can be used for **underwater photogrammetry**





The **georeferred photogrammetric models** can be used for detailed geological interpretation

Field work - Ecton Mine, United Kingdom

- Deep Ecton Mine was one of the most important copper mines in Britain in the 18th century.
- There are large flooded workings that extend down to over -300m below river level.
- These had not been seen since the later 1850s after the mine pumps were turned off, until the UNEXMIN project provided information on some of the flooded workings by the use the UX-series submersibles.





Field work - Ecton Mine, United Kingdom



Field work - Ecton Mine, United Kingdom



Field work - Ecton Mine, UK – Geological interpretation



The **geological interpretation** was easily done after the collected data was processed





Stockwerk calcite veins on **RGB** (top) and **UV** (bottom) **images** Syncline with calcitized tension cracks, winding shaft 15

Field work - Ecton Mine, UK - 3D modelling

Detailed, **high**resolution photogrammetric models from the flooded parts of the mine

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Field work - Ecton Mine, UK - 3D modelling



In case of good visibility, laser and **sonar** based 3D point clouds can be created simultaneusly and the immediate result can be observed during the dive



Field work – Csór freshwater well, Hungary

- Primary water source of Székesfehérvár, Hungary
- **5 cm accuracy 3D map** is required to be able to lower a new equipment to the bottom of the well
- The water pumps were working constantly during the work
- Human contact with water was prohibited
- One-day mission
- ~66 m depth





Field work – Csór freshwater well, Hungary



Field work – Molnár János cave, Hungary

- The Molnár János Cave is a thermokarstic water-filled cave system
- The **deepest** sections reach **100 metres**, while the **total length** of explored sections is currently **5.5 kilometres**
- The cave is well-known for cavedivers due to the warm (20-28 Celsius degrees), crystal clear water. There are no strong currents within the cave, the water flows very slowly.





Field work – Molnár János cave, Hungary



Field work – Molnár János cave, Hungary





Complex 3D model were obtained from the first part of the cave:

- Underwater photogrammetry
- Aerial photogrammetry
- Laser point cloud
- Sonar point cloud
- Aerial LiDAR

- Commercial field trial
- Risk of catastrophic saltwater contamination of River Tisza
- Investigate stability and water conditions within the mines
- Dives in shafts 9 & 10 with the UX1-Neo robot
- Dives in lakes 7 & 8 and shaft 10 with Water Chemistry Unit





Shaft 10













- Shaft 9
 - Dive to 80m
 - Low visibility
 - Many obstacles
- Shaft 10
 - Dive to ~450m
 - Better visibility
 - No obstacles
 - Saturated brine







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Access blocked in the Shaft 10 at ~306m





Applications of our technology

- Raw materials exploration
- Create and/or update geological models
- Make decisions on exploitation
- Water reservoirs surveying
- Cave system exploration
- Cavity measurement (e.g. salt mines)
- Geological Surveys
- Cultural Heritage sites investigation
- Risk evaluation
- Environmental monitoring



Safety protocols

- Safety instructions and protocols for field trials are available
- They comply with the Safety legislation of the country and the company for which the trials are carried out



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Thank you!

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