

Hi there,

Hello and welcome to the first LIRA Newsletter of 2021. In this month's issue, we have news of funding success, plus a new research theme lead, a new seminar series, and the latest activities from our members. If you have a news item to share, please email [lira-admin@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:lira-admin@lancaster.ac.uk).

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### **LIRA members in funding success**

Several large research grants have been awarded to Lancaster University, with LIRA members either leading, or significantly involved in projects. The [AI for Earth Observation \(AI4EO\) project](#) has awarded Lancaster University €180k from the European Space Agency, while LIRA and Energy Lancaster have received £623k as part of a [Multi-scale Modelling project led by Imperial College](#).



### **Funding for Autonomous Systems**

Colleagues from LIRA and Security Lancaster have been successful in securing funding for the EPSRC project, [Trustworthy Autonomous Systems Node in Security](#).

Lancaster's share of the project is £1.8M over the next 42 months and the project offers several Senior Research Associate and PhD positions.



### **Recognition for Plamen Angelov**

LIRA Director Plamen Angelov has recently been included in a list of top-cited scholars working in AI research. The [Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford \(METRICS\)](#) offers a thorough analysis of the world's top-cited scientists, where Plamen has been rated in the top 0.1% of researchers publishing in AI. He has also been elected as Governor of the [International Neural Network Society](#), for a three year term.



### **New theme lead and seminar series organiser for 2021**

We are pleased to announce our new research theme lead for [Intelligent Transport, Amjad Fayoumi](#). The focus of this theme is to develop new methods and algorithms to make transport systems safer, with a higher level of autonomy and more efficient. Meanwhile, we are also delighted to announce our new seminar series organiser, [Ahmed Kheiri](#). Details on this year's seminars will be released shortly, and will be announced in a forthcoming Newsletter.

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**Updates from our members**

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## Smart cities research

Earlier this month, LIRA theme lead [Amjad Fayoumi](#) presented at 'The Future Vision of Sustainable Cities'. His paper was titled 'Green and Smart Cities: The role of smart transportation'.

## Unmanned vehicles

At the end of last year, [Allahyar Montazeri](#) chaired the 'Unmanned aerial and ground vehicles' session at the Nonlinearity Information and Robotics Conference (NIR2020), hosted by Innopolis University.

## Grant for new robot

LIRA theme lead [David Cheneler](#) was recently awarded £250k funding for his project '[ASUNDER – Adaptable Semiautonomous Underwater Decommissioning Sample Retrieval Robot](#)'. The project, which started in November, will run until May 2023.

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