


# Detecting Environmental Hazards through Artificial Intelligence



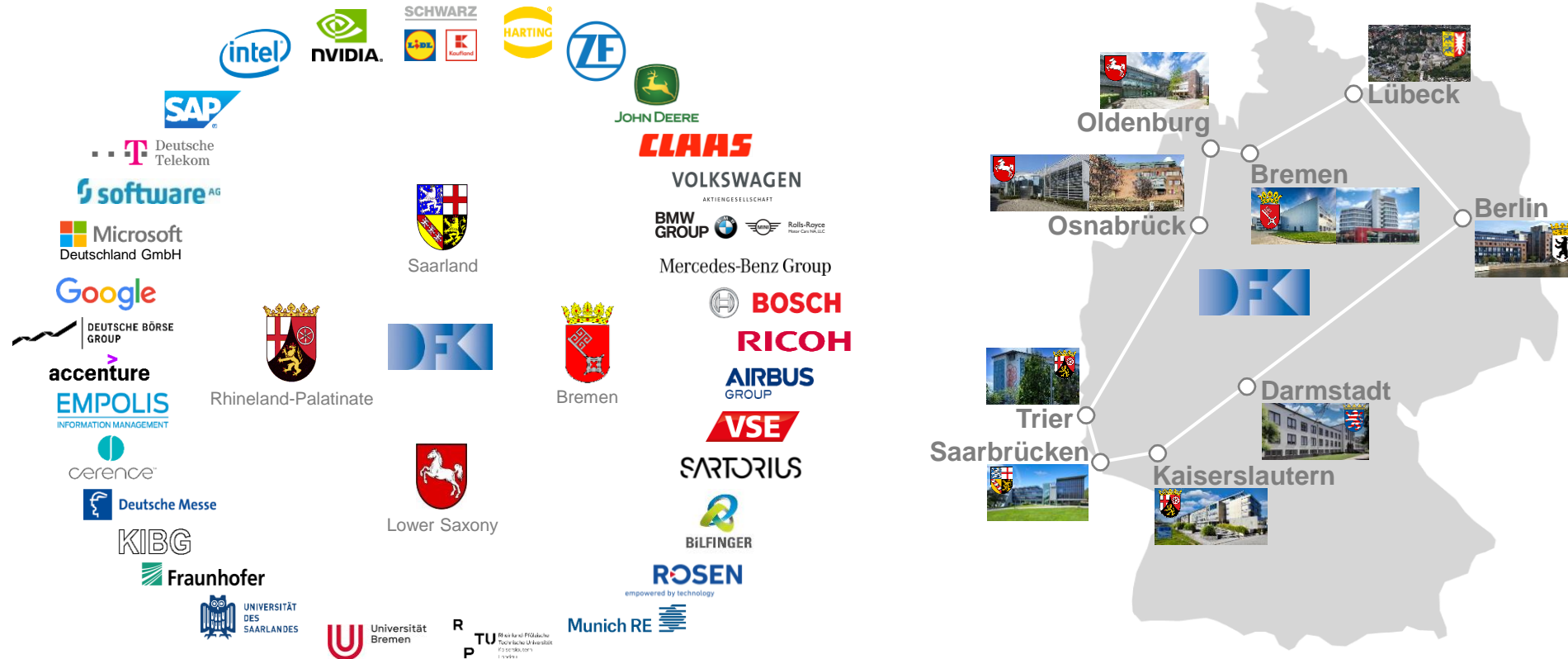
**Deputy Head of Research Department**  
**Dr. Frederic Stahl** ([frederic\\_theodor.stahl@dfki.de](mailto:frederic_theodor.stahl@dfki.de))

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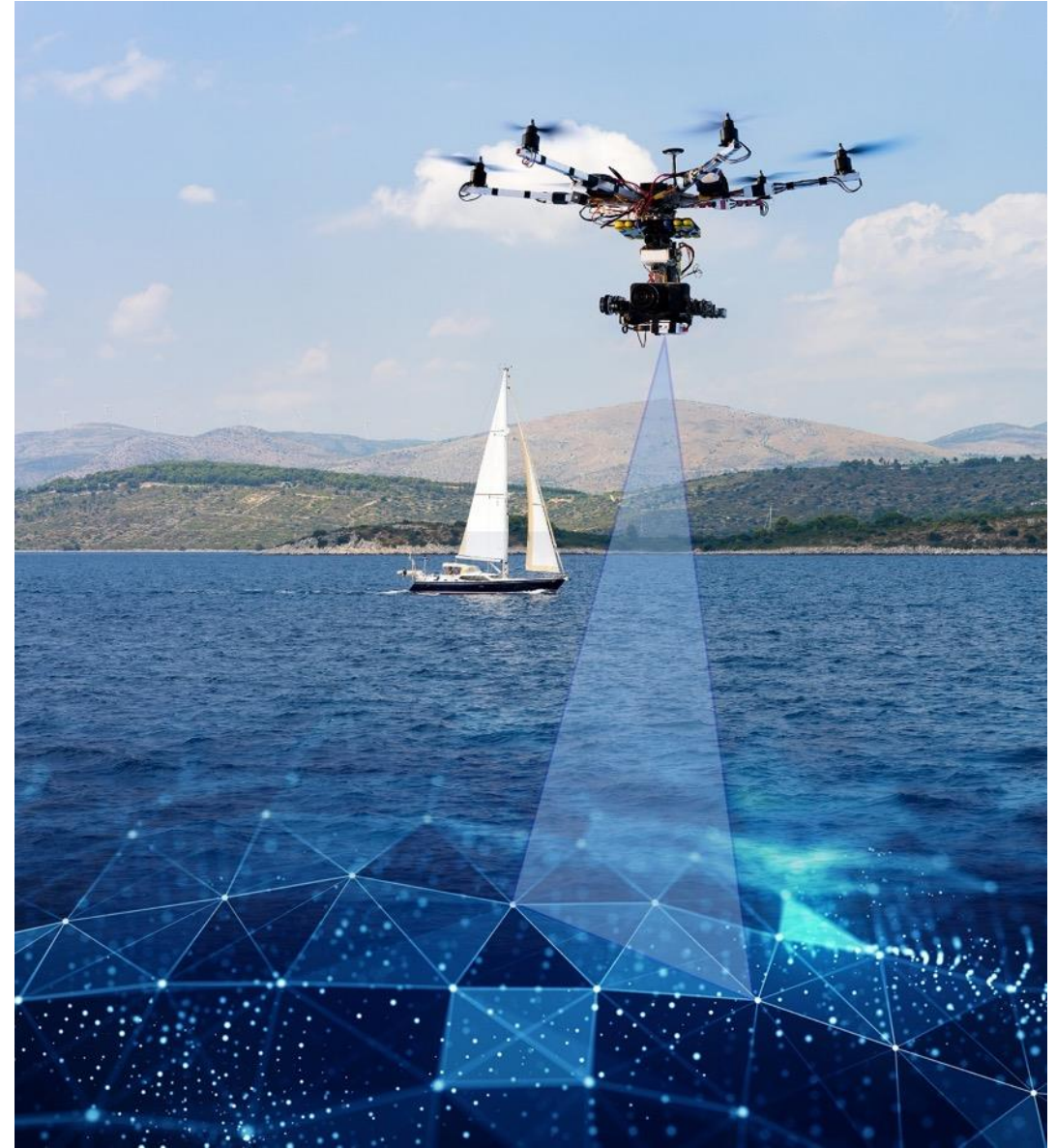
# DFKI – German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence



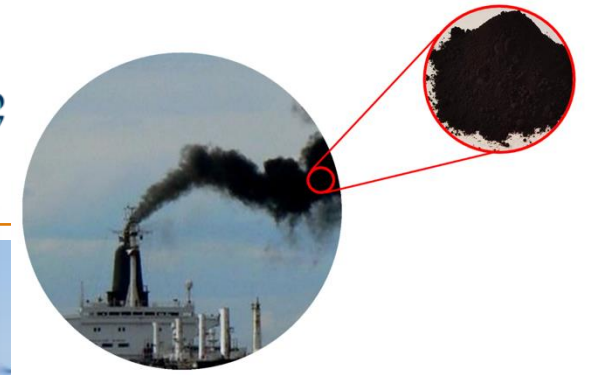
DFKI is one of the leading (applied) AI research centers

## Sensing is believing...

- Intelligent sensors and distributed systems for automatic perception and classification in the aquatic environment
  - Autonomous analysis of multisensory data using artificial intelligence methods, techniques and tools
  - Real-time data stream analysis and integration into a high-dimensional situation picture
- **We combine sensor technology and artificial intelligence to evaluate environmental situations and identify options for action**



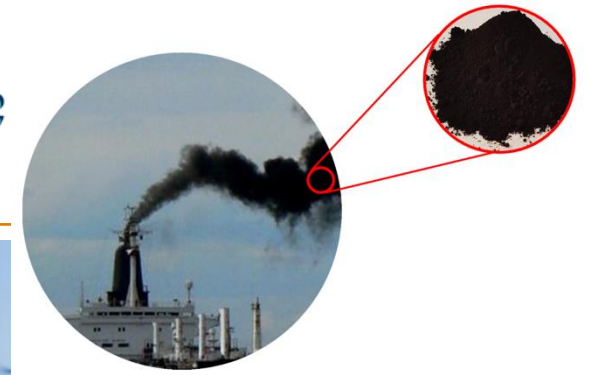
DFKI Marine Perception (MAP) → [www.dfki.de/map](http://www.dfki.de/map)



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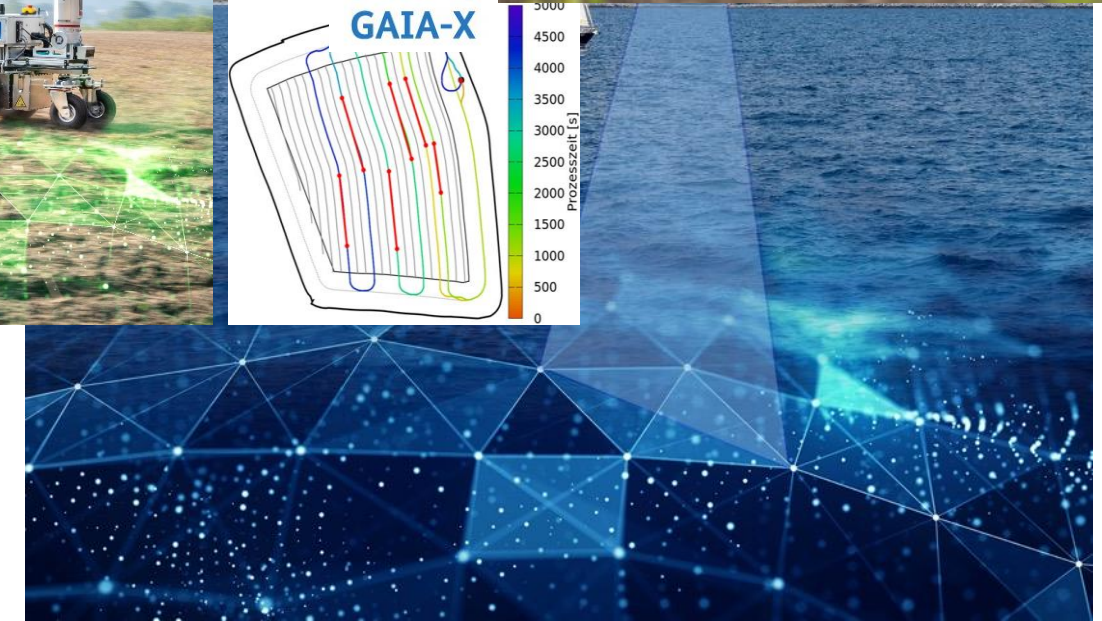
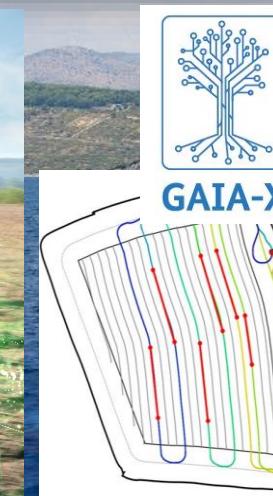
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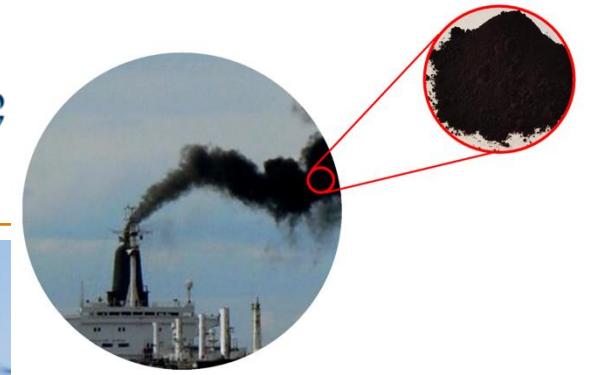




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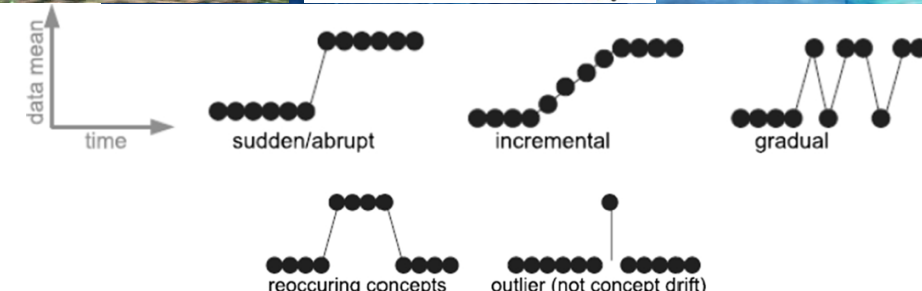
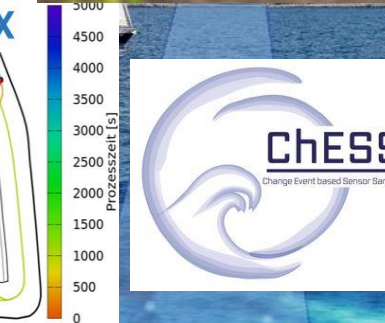
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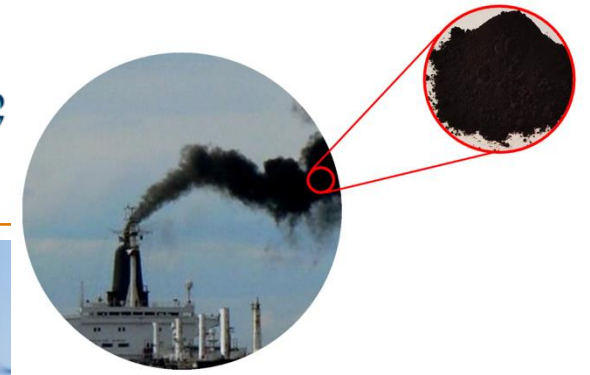




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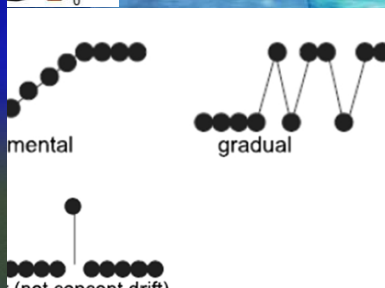
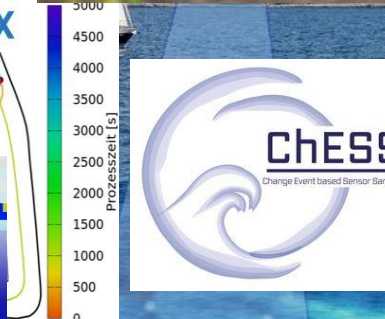
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# What is AI?

Term was coined by John McCarthy in 1956 who organised the “Dartmouth Summer Research Conference on Artificial Intelligence”

A branch of computer science that studies how **to endow computers with capabilities of human intelligence**

- to model or replicate human intelligence



Source: Photo by Chuck Painter, credits Stanford University



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**Humans have different degrees of intelligence!**



er, credits Stanford University



# What is AI?

## **Artificial Intelligence**

the science of getting machines to mimic the behaviour of humans

## **Machine Learning**

Subset of AI that focusses on getting machines to make decisions by feeding them data

## **Neural Networks / Deep Learning**

A type of method inspired by neural networks to solve complex problems.

Machine Learning and Deep Learning aid Artificial Intelligence by providing a set of algorithms to solve data driven problems.

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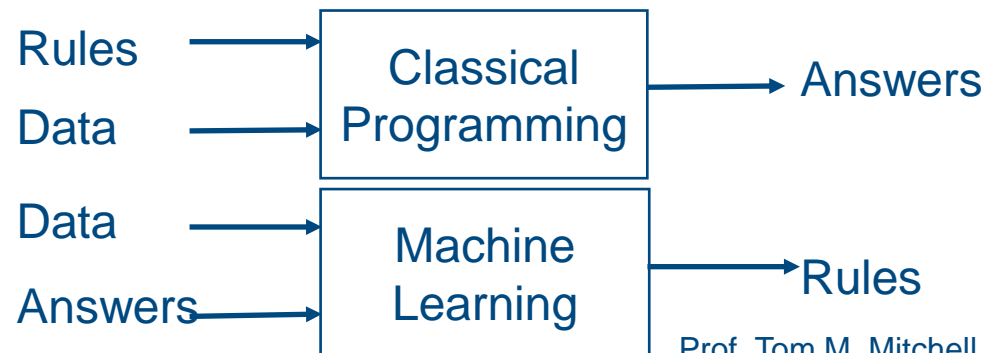
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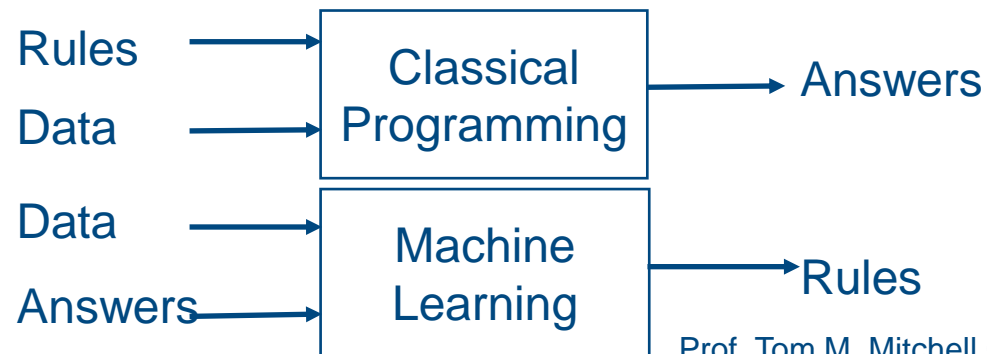
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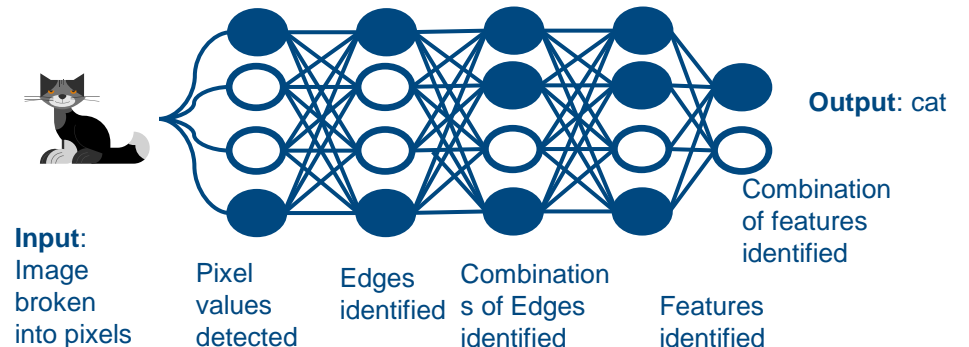
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Prof. Tom M. Mitchell Carnegie Mellon University

## Deep Learning



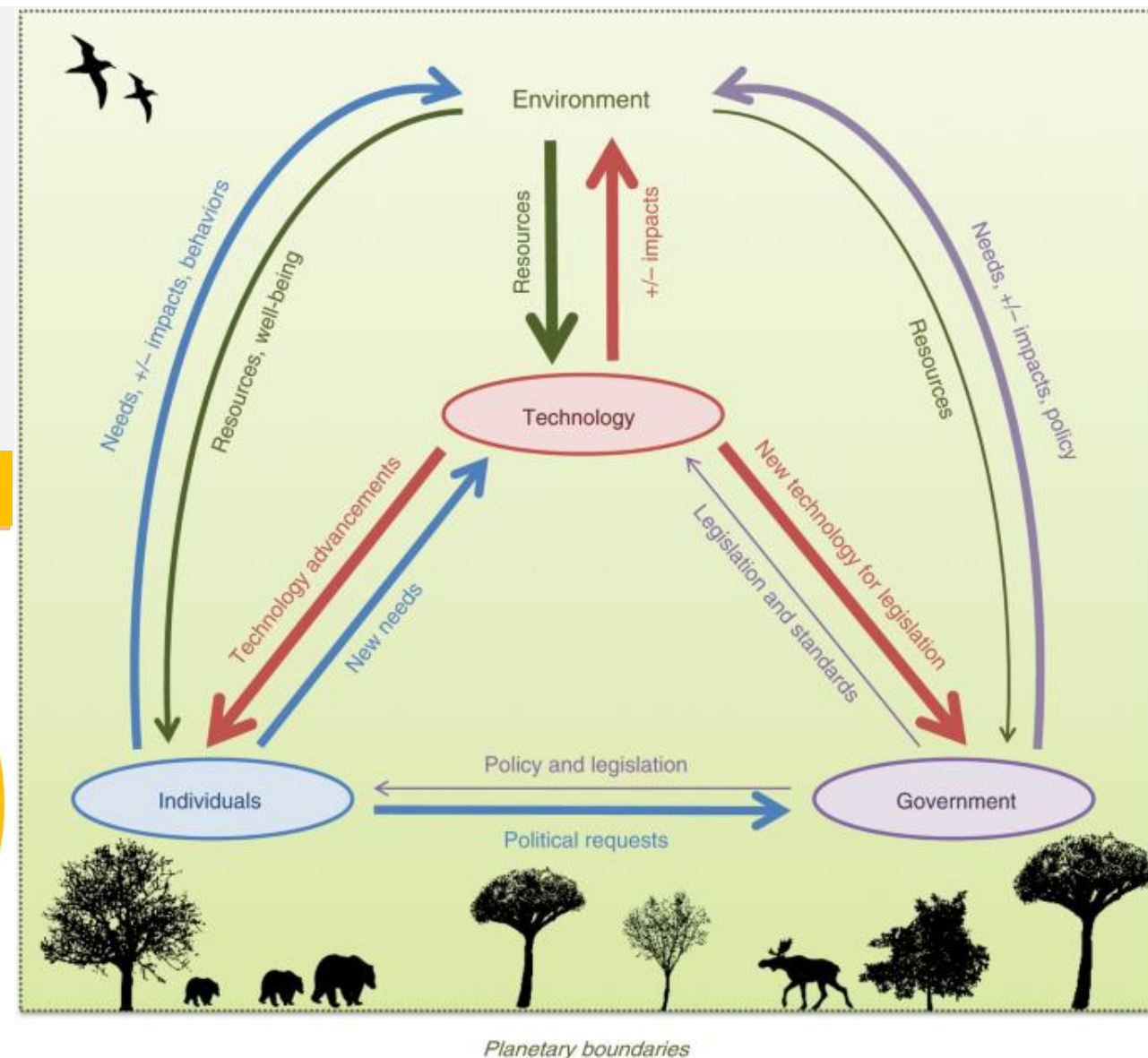
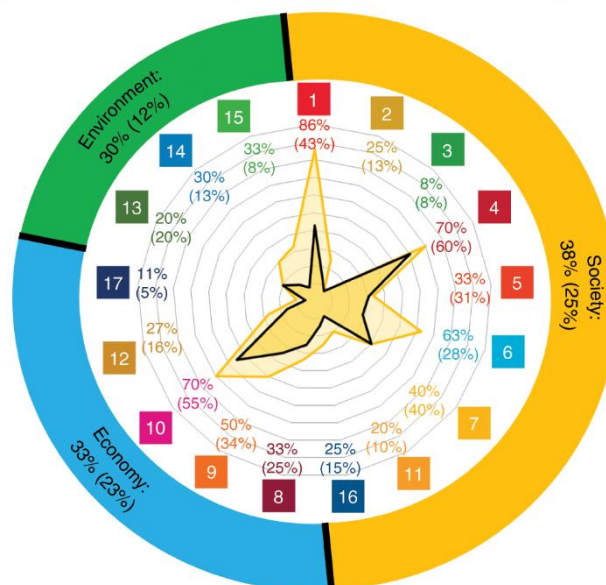
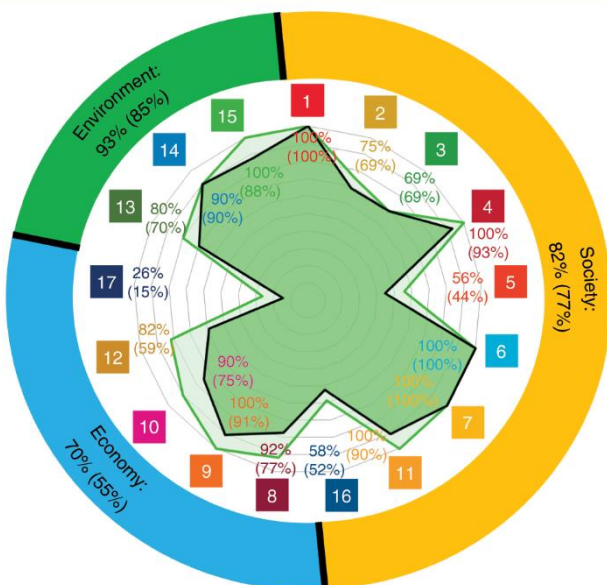
# Artificial intelligence as a key technology for meeting global challenges

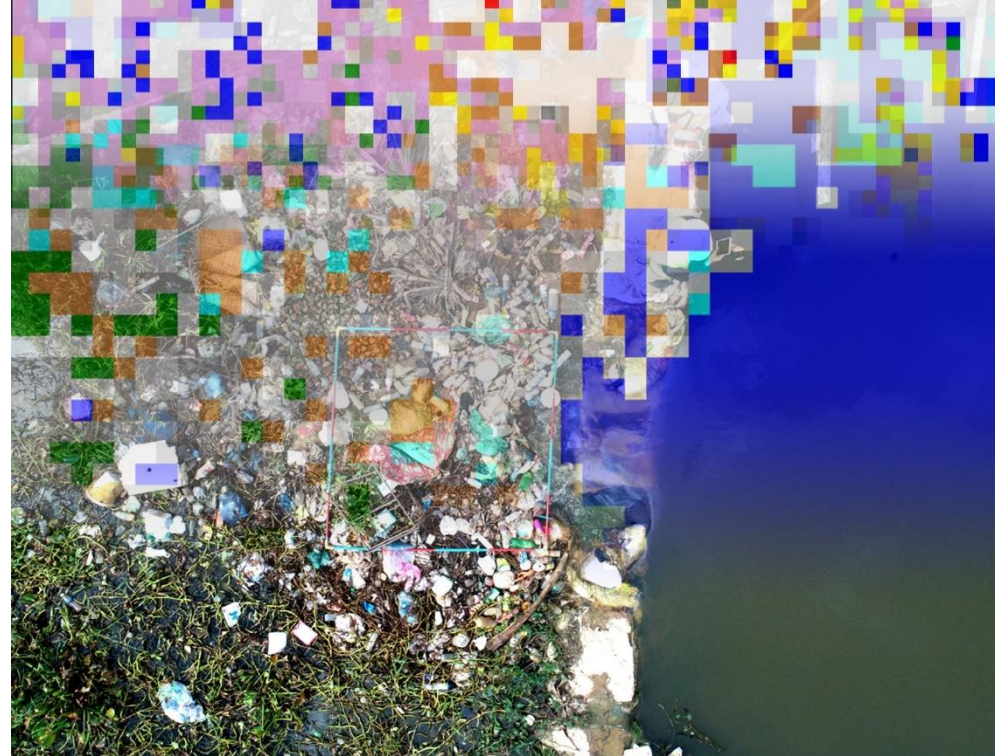
## AI and the UN-SDGs (Vinuesa et al, 2020)

- Many positive potentials for SDG targets, especially in the area of environment
- AI needs societal acceptance and legal frameworks → Real World Laboratories

Positive Impacts: 79%

Negative Impacts: 35%





# Combating plastic waste

Quantification and classification

## Four World Bank projects

- Projects in Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines Vietnam and Indonesia
  - Field investigations and remote sensing flights by partners on site, concept and data analysis by DFKI Marine Perception
  - Impact & Capacity Building: local, regional and national scope
- ➔ **Easy-to-use methodologies that enable stakeholders to perform assessment and monitoring**





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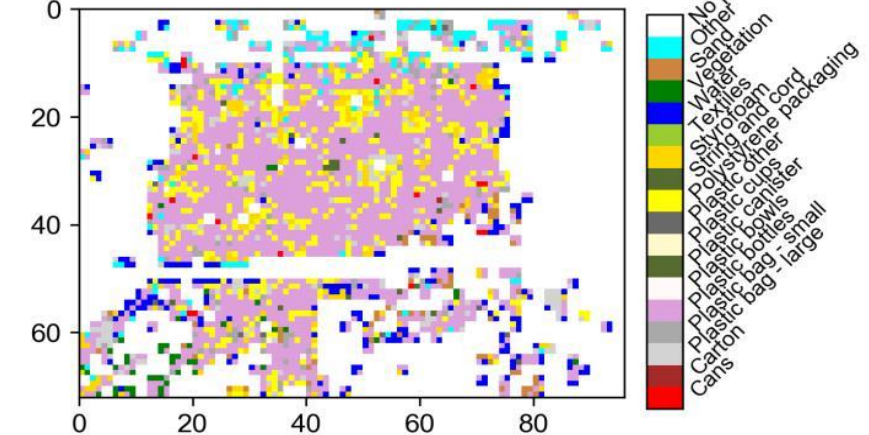
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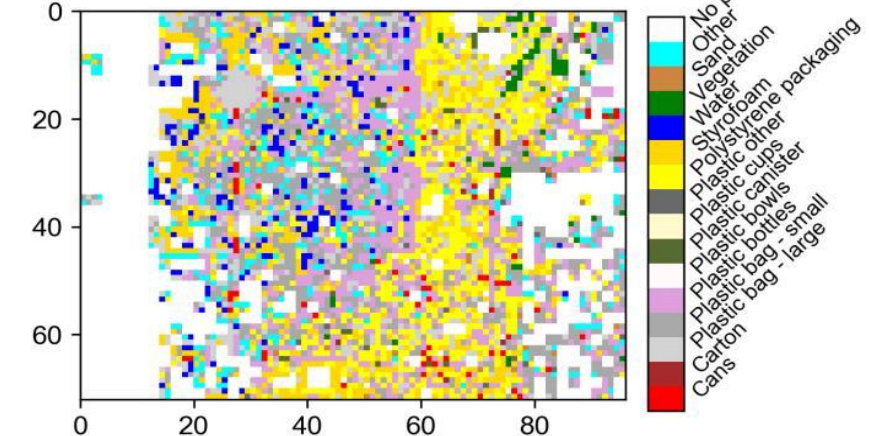
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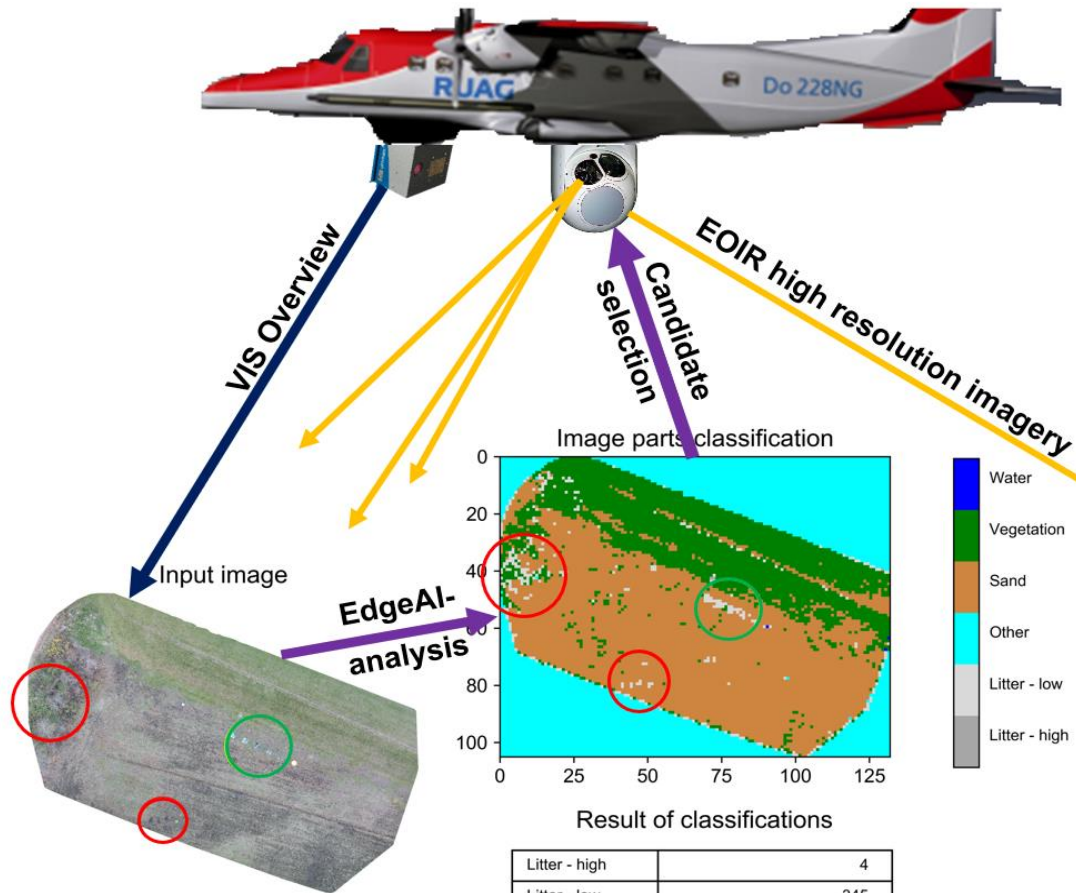
Classification matrix PLQ CNN



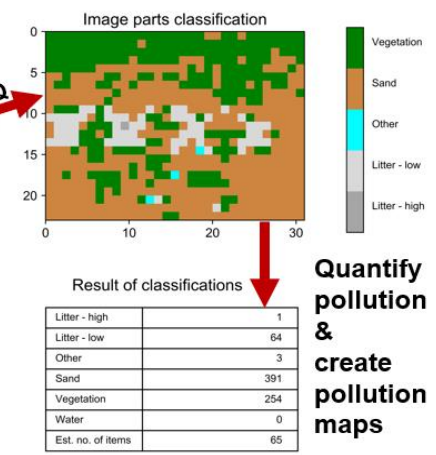
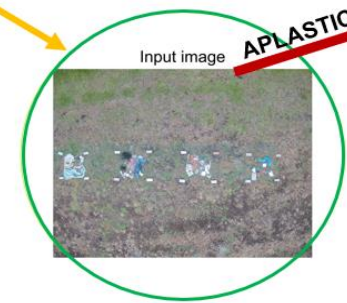
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# Airborne Plastic Pollution Control (PlasticObs)



Airborne surveillance with fast **Edge-AI object detection** and subsequent detailed **CNN classification from EO-imager data**.



OPTImare

JADEHOCHSCHULE  
Wilhelmshaven Oldenburg Elsfleth



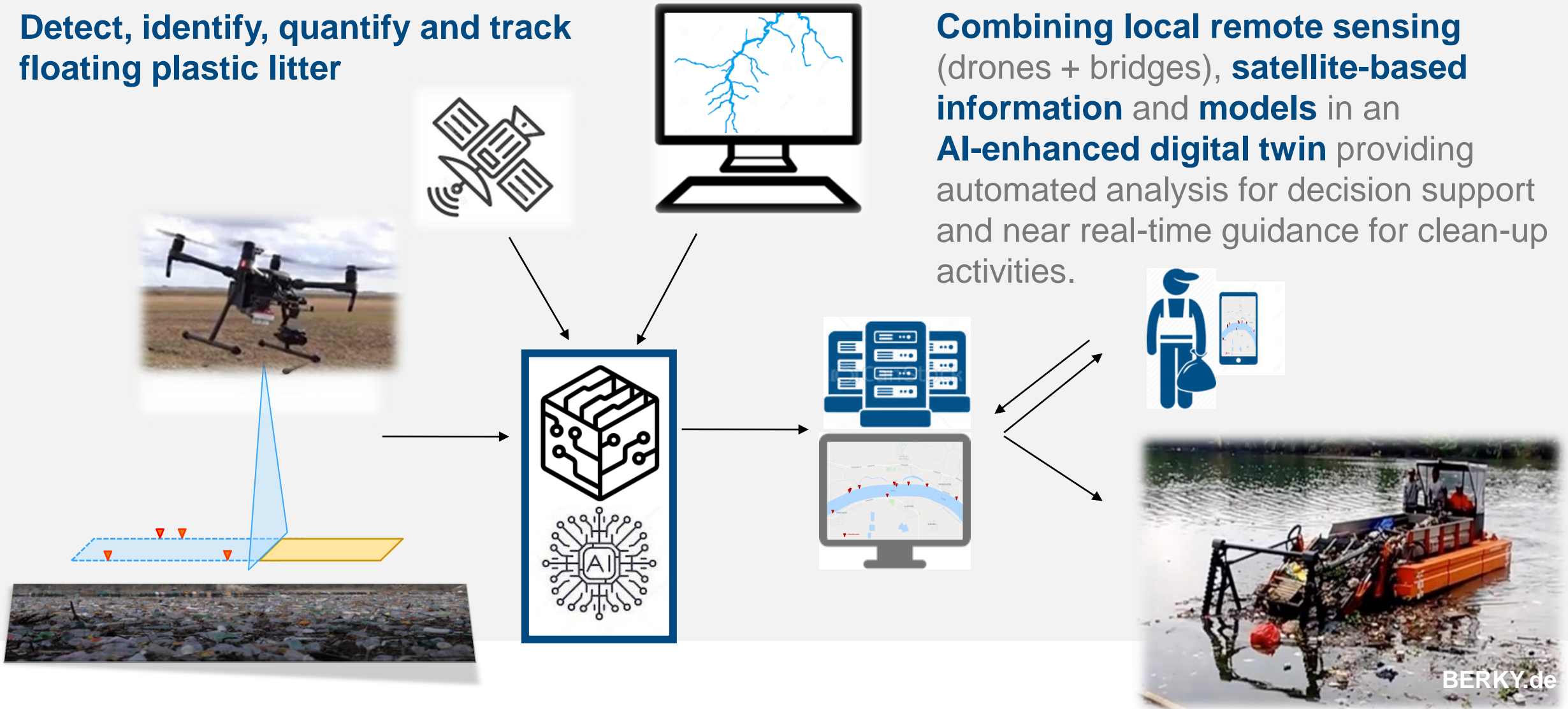
everwave

52north

# Overall vision: From perception to action

**Detect, identify, quantify and track floating plastic litter**

**Combining local remote sensing (drones + bridges), satellite-based information and models in an AI-enhanced digital twin** providing automated analysis for decision support and near real-time guidance for clean-up activities.





# Digital Twins

Modelling Aspects of the Real World to Assess Potential Environmental Impacts

# Digital Twin Earth (DTE)

- EU data strategy: "Destination Earth (DestinE)"
- Related to **European Green Deal**
- Example questions/testing scenarios :
  - *"For the EU and for my country, which industrial policy measures lead to 2050 carbon neutrality, which in the opposite direction?"*
  - *"How many trees do we have in Europe and where best to plant for the maximum environment and economic positive impact?"*



**WHAT IS A DIGITAL TWIN?**

Our planet is a complex system. To better understand how it works, we have created a simulated 'living' replica.

Driven by advanced AI, this computer model is fed by a continuous flow of observations from the physical world.

It allows us to revisit our past, understand our present and predict our future.

**PHYSICAL WORLD**  
Planet Earth

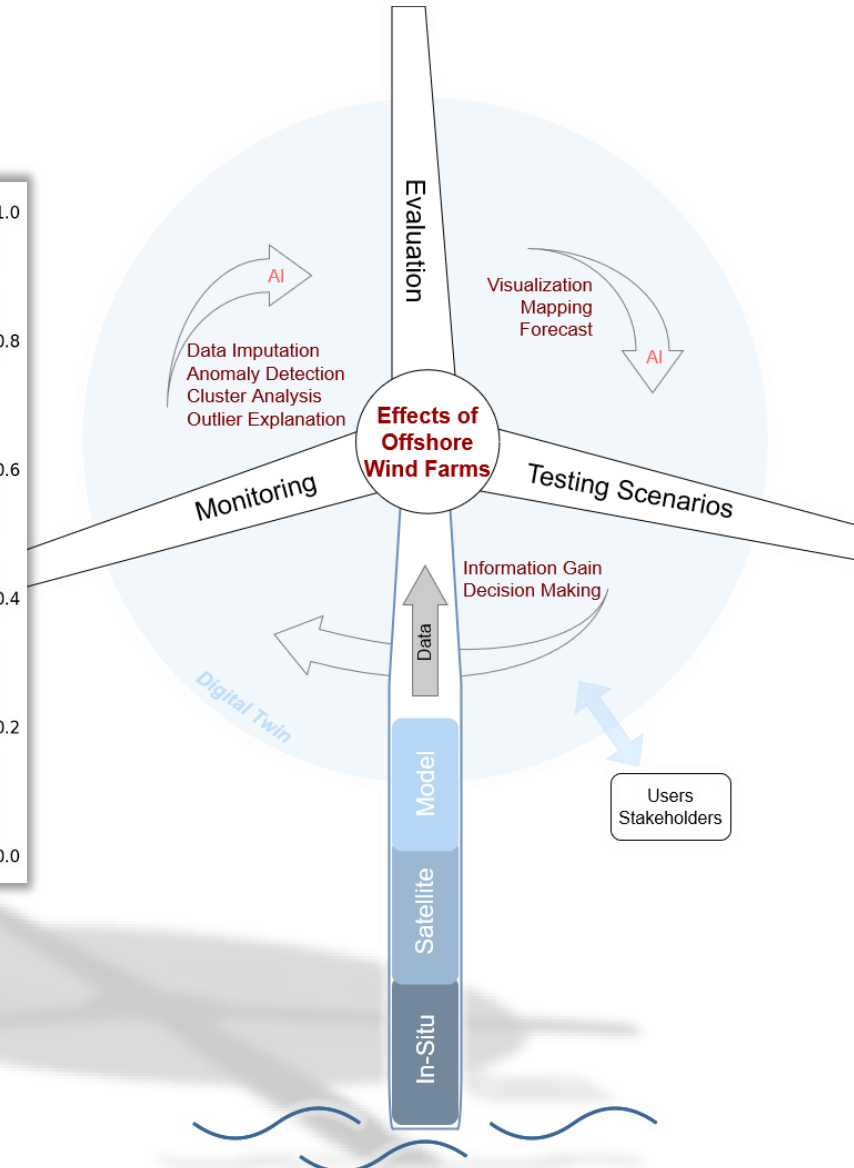
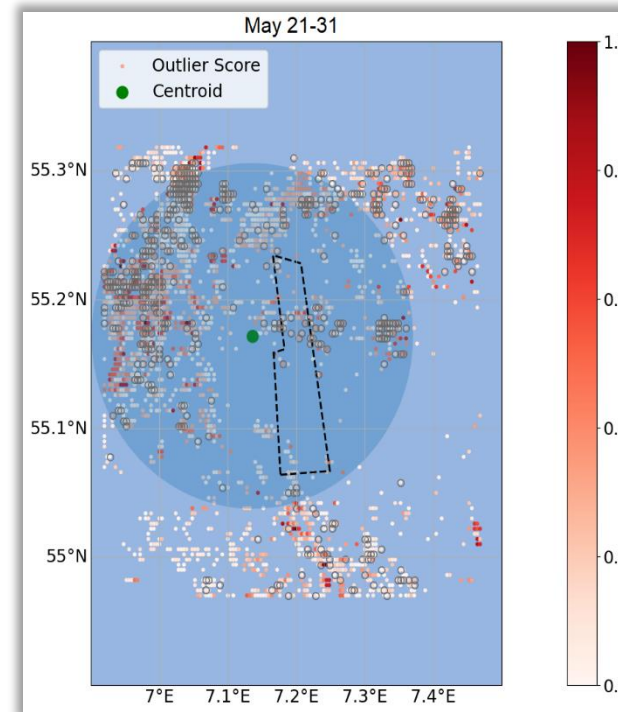
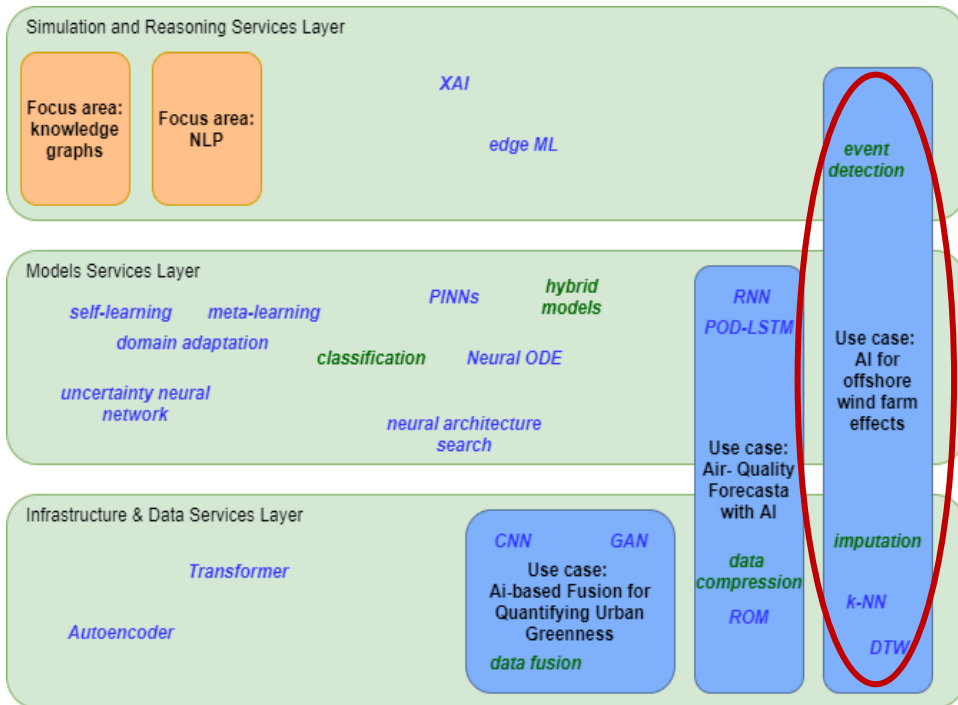
**DIGITAL TWIN**  
Computer model

ECMWF

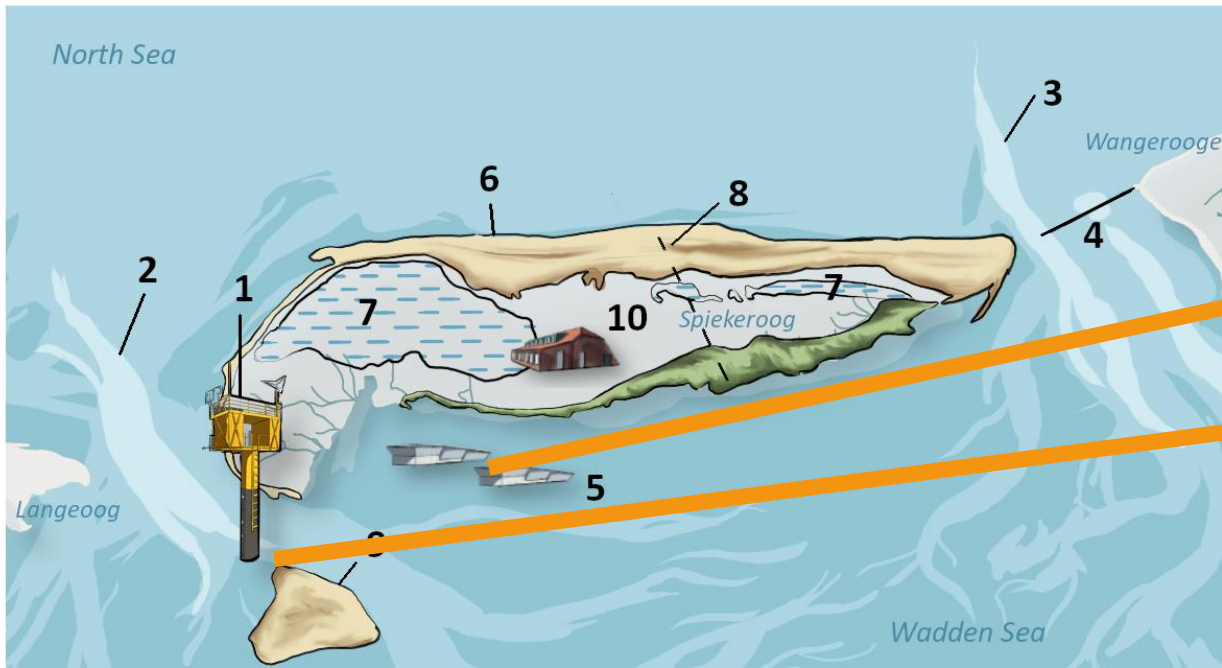
(Source: ECMWF)

**“DTE is an interactive replica of past, present, and future of our planet in the digital domain“**

- The goal of the activity is to **identify those elements of artificial intelligence** that will aid the **development of DTEs**



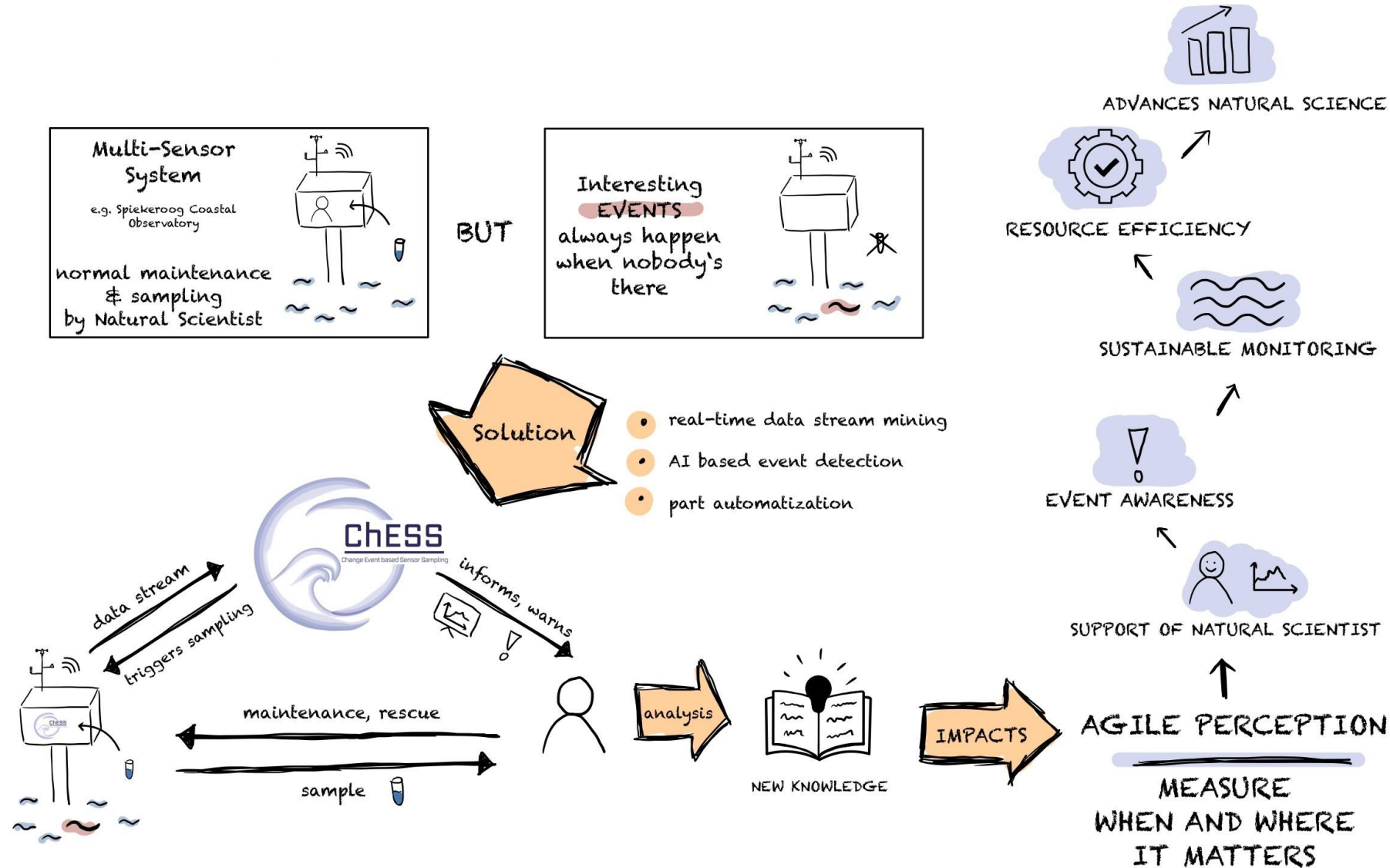
→ Provides method to monitor and evaluate wind farm effects, providing stakeholders with information for informed decision making on future maritime energy infrastructures



# Real-Time Event Detection

Environmental Monitoring and Predictive Maintenance of Observation Stations

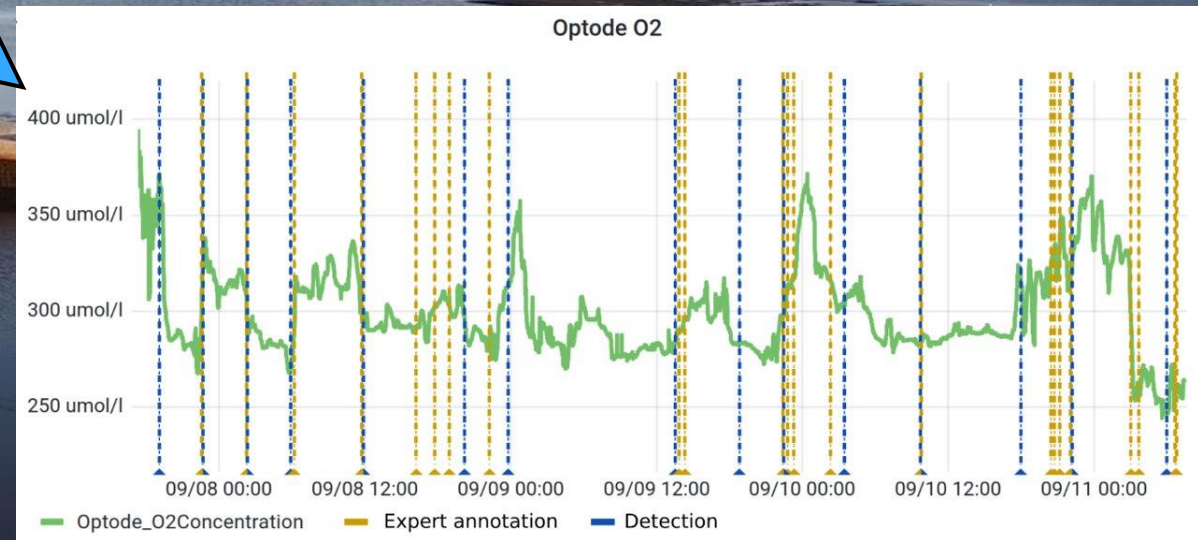
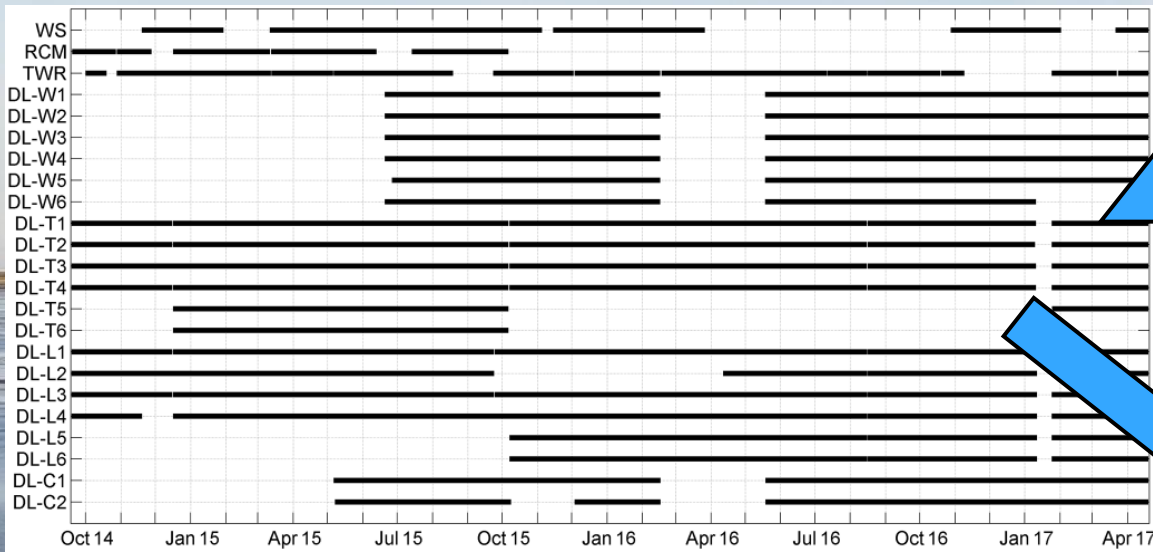
# ChESS: Change Event based Sensor Sampling





# Support observational systems

Gap imputation and anomaly detection



- AI offers enormous opportunities for (marine) environmental applications and sustainability goals
- Think and implement AI sustainably in itself
- Societal acceptance is key to achieve impact

AI as an  
enabler for the  
sustainability  
transformation



Thank you  
for your interest,  
I'm happy to  
discuss areas of  
collaborations



Gefördert durch:



Niedersächsisches Ministerium  
für Wissenschaft und Kultur

Niedersachsen Vorab (ZN3480)

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