

THORNTON LAB.

Autonomy Exploring Earth's Inner Space



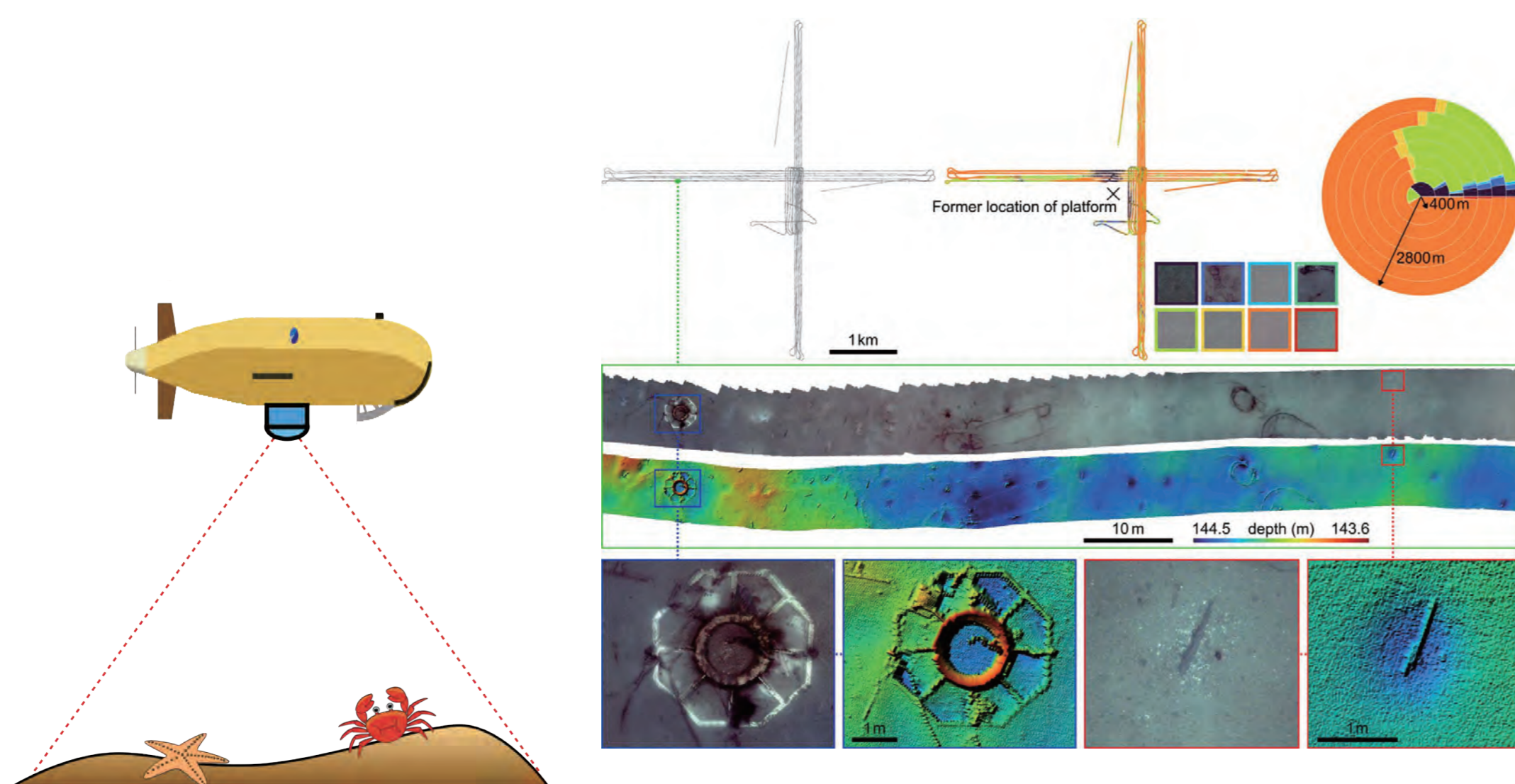
Department of Mechanical and Biofunctional Systems
Center for Integrated Underwater Observation Technology

Underwater Photonics

Robotic Sensing and Autonomy for Scalable Seafloor Monitoring

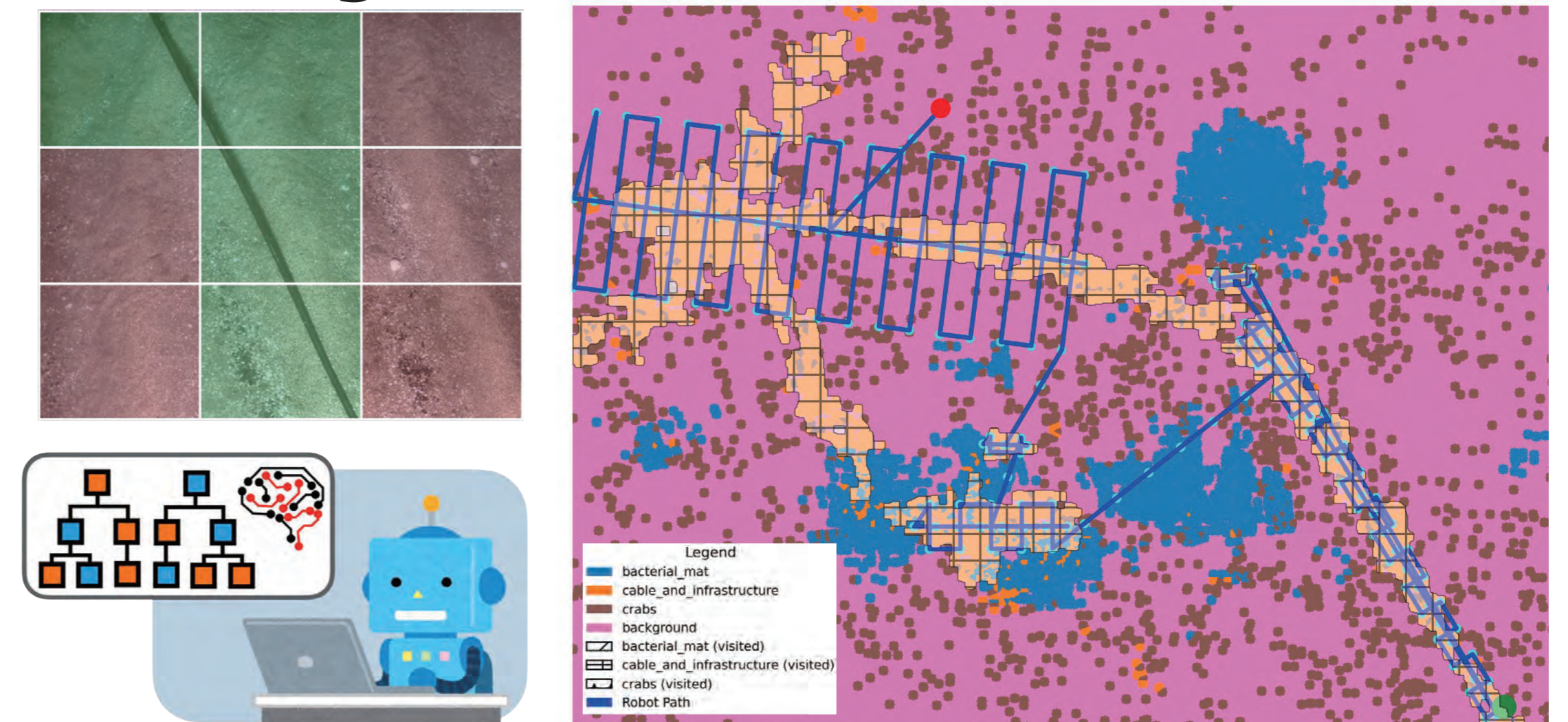
The ocean produces half the oxygen we breath and an increasing proportion of the food we consume. It is also home to the subsea cables that make the internet work and transmit renewable energy needed to meet global decarbonization targets. Monitoring the ocean and offshore infrastructure is challenging because water limits the range of both our platforms and the signals they use to sense and communicate. Our laboratory develops the sensing and intelligence needed for robotic submersibles to interpret and efficiently summarize their observations so that they can operate independently for longer and monitor larger areas without relying on the physical human presence to support their operation.

High-resolution seafloor mapping



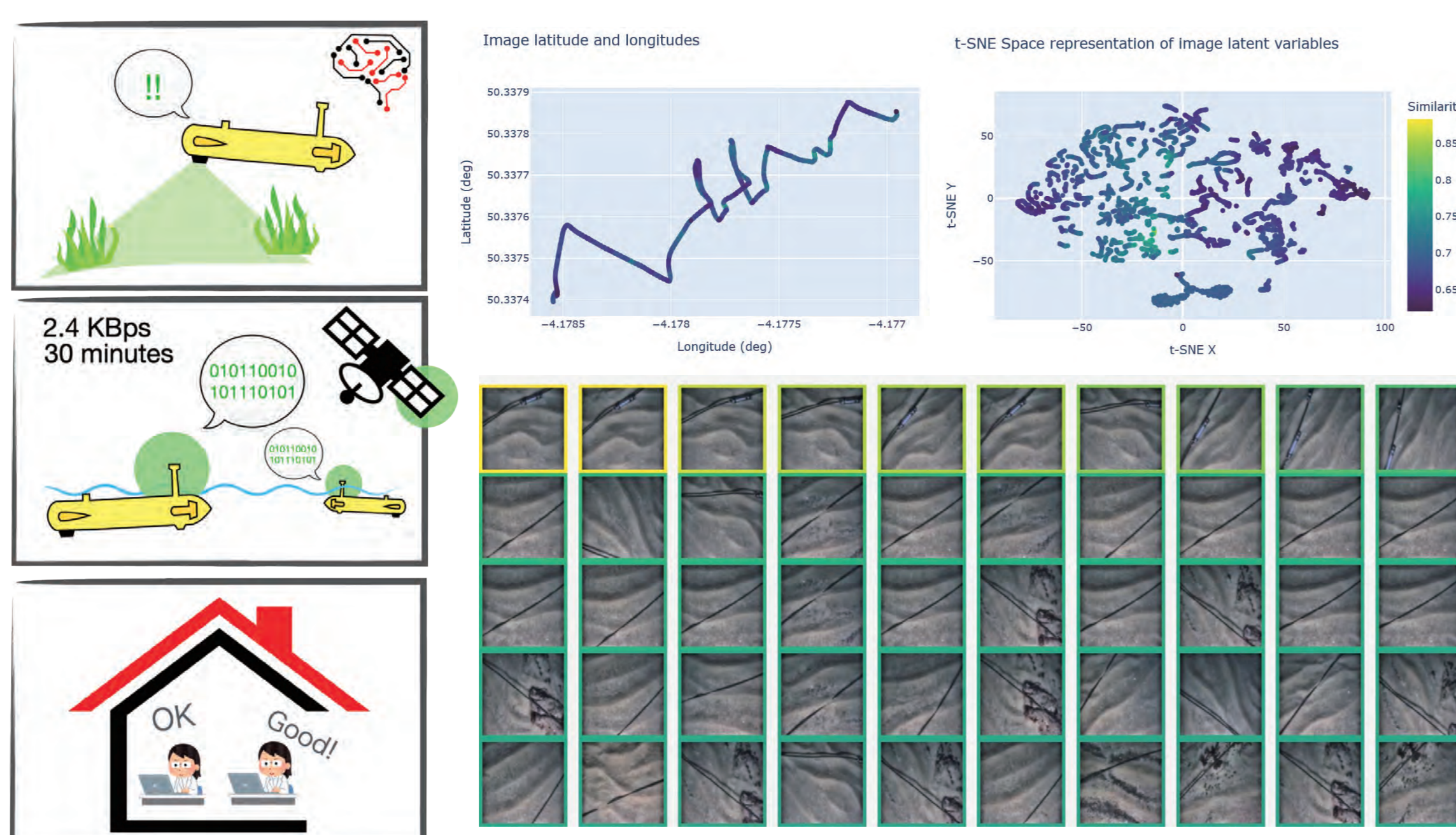
Mobile sensing to gather mm-resolution images and shape information for km-extent whole site survey

Intelligent infrastructure monitoring



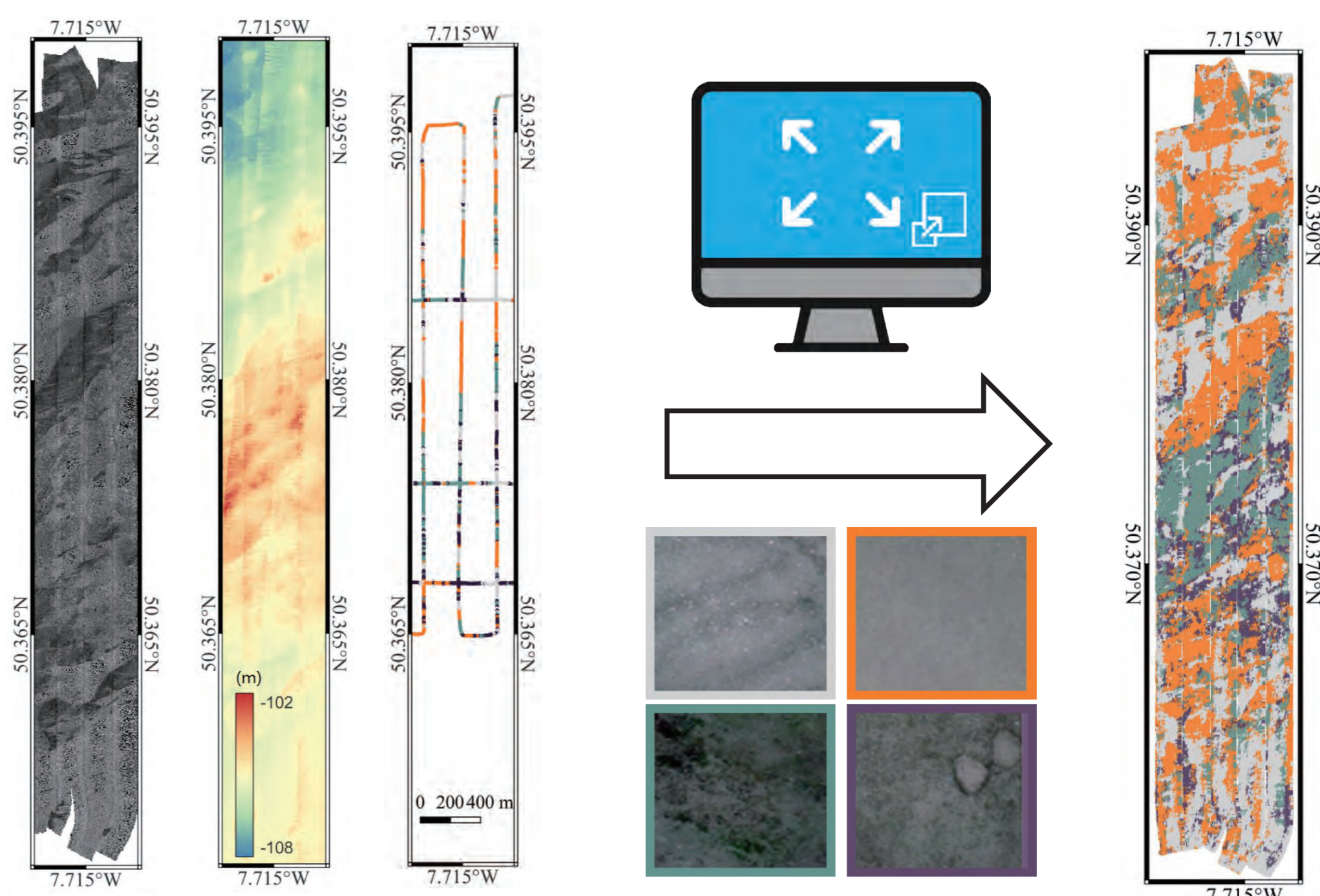
Inspection of cable and pipeline infrastructure through advanced search, real-time detection and tracking

Automated survey summary generation



Rapid robotic summary generation of large image datasets for remote dataset interaction

Multimodal inference with remote sensing



Combining remote sensing data with in situ observations for wide area understanding of seafloor environments