

The team is in Hawaii for
the last round of testing!

Feb 13-17 2025

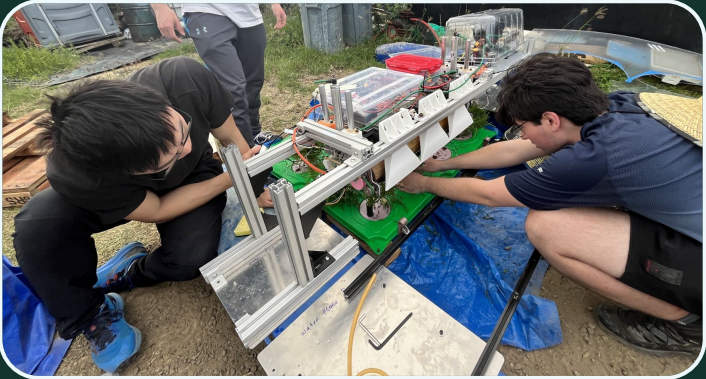


TESTING

SALICO









TESTING

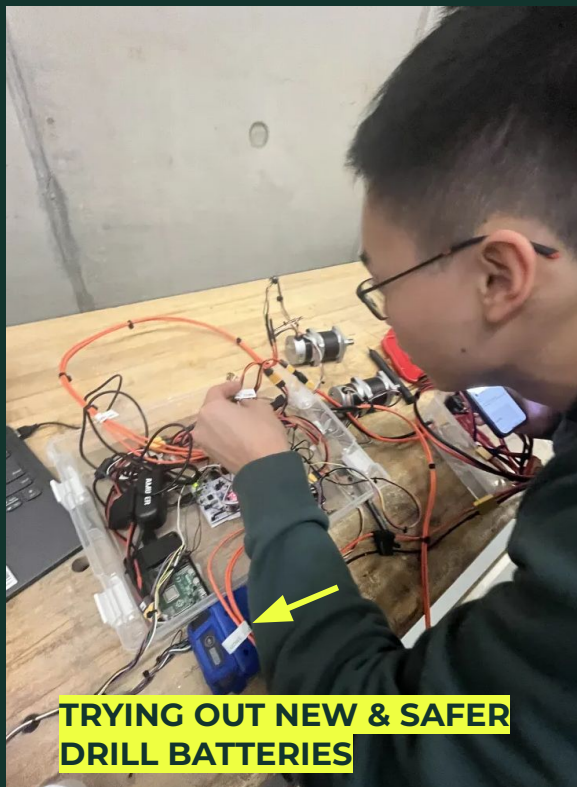
SALICO

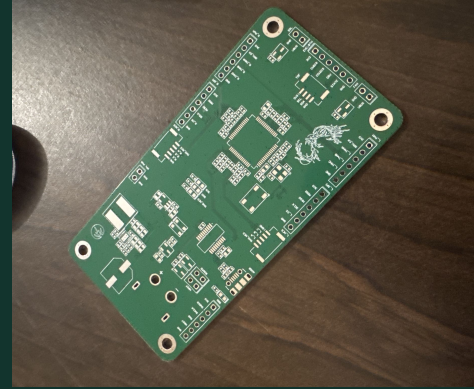
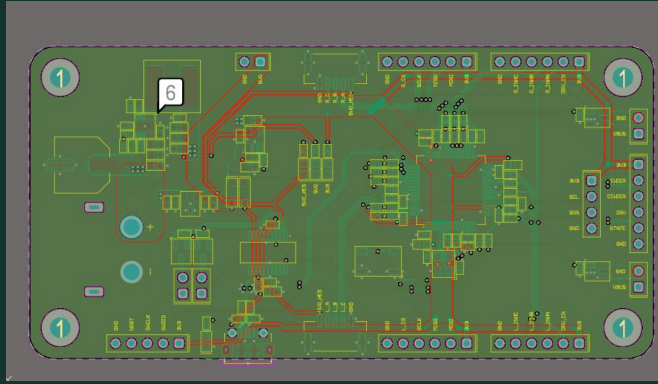


RESULTS SOON!

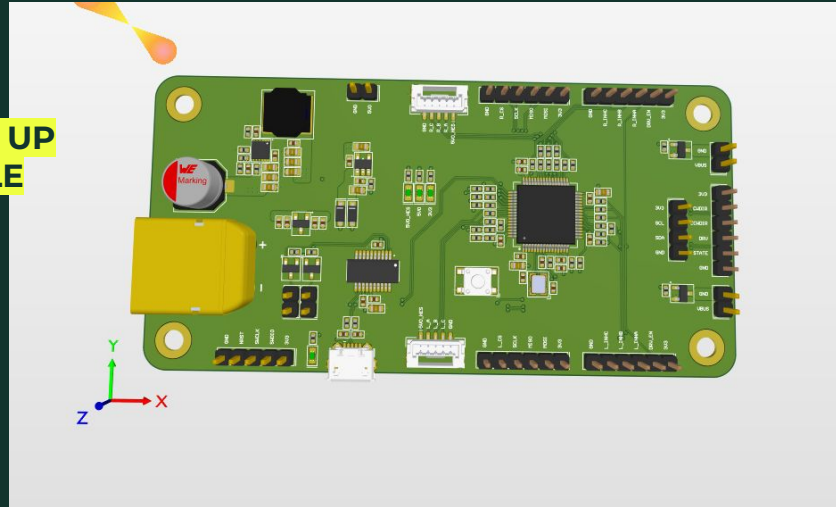
MAKING **DESIGN TWEAKS** BASED ON OUR TRIP

FEB 26TH



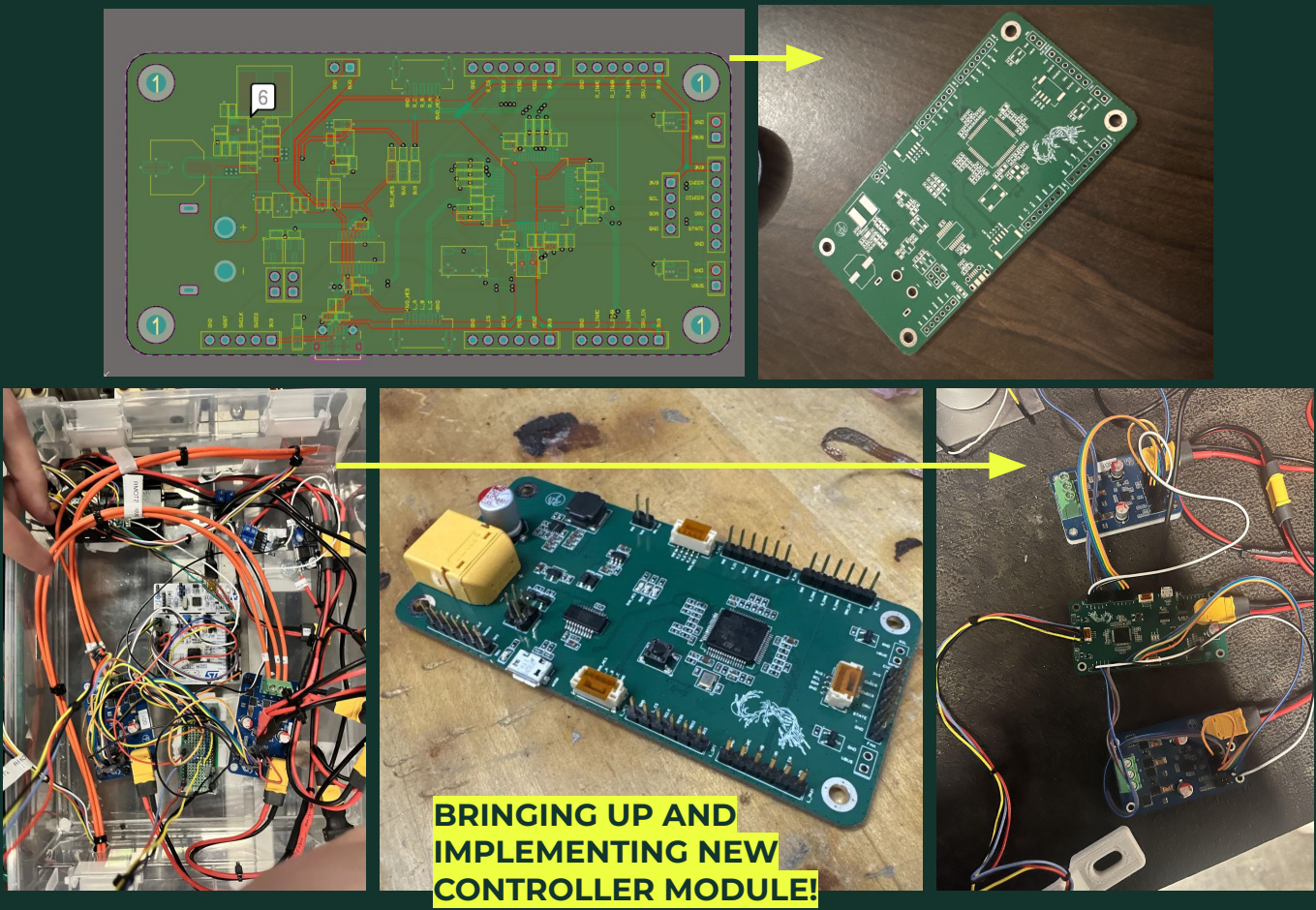


**DESIGNING AND BRINGING UP
NEW CONTROLLER MODULE**

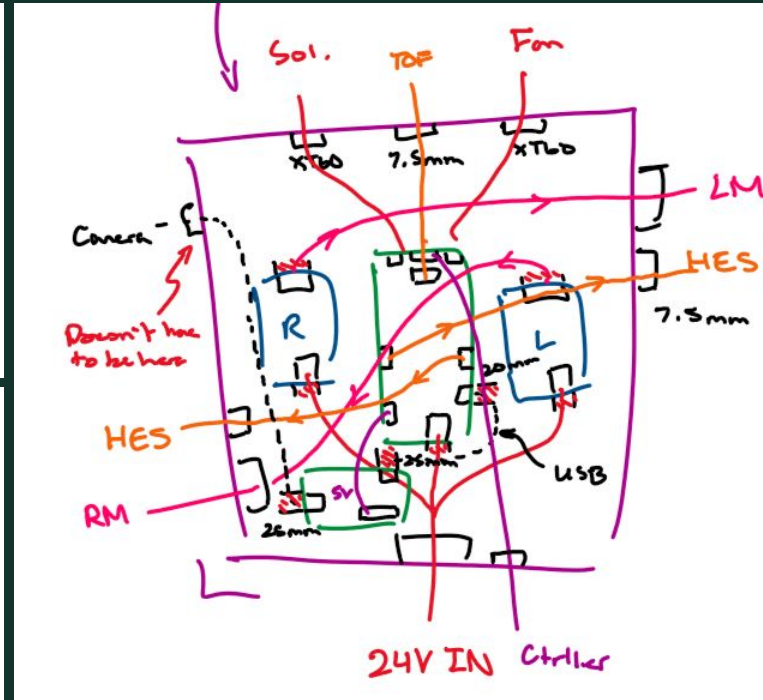
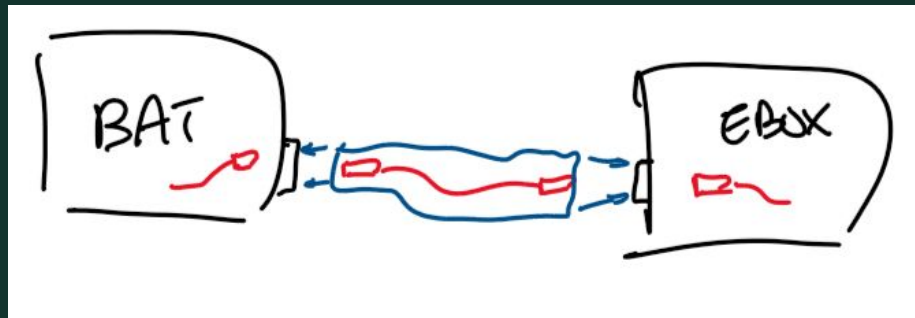
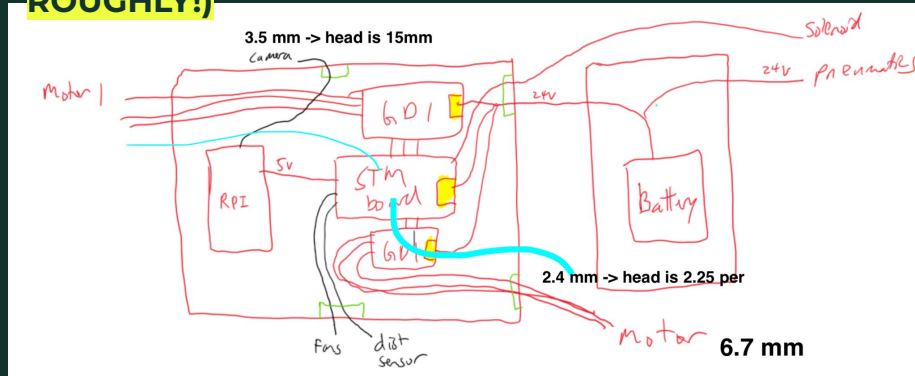


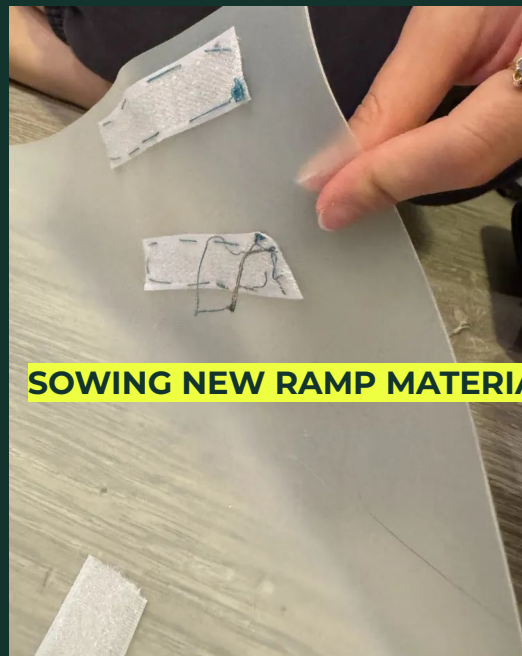
**PREPARING FOR DEMO &
NORMAN ESCH SEMI FINALS**

MAR 5TH

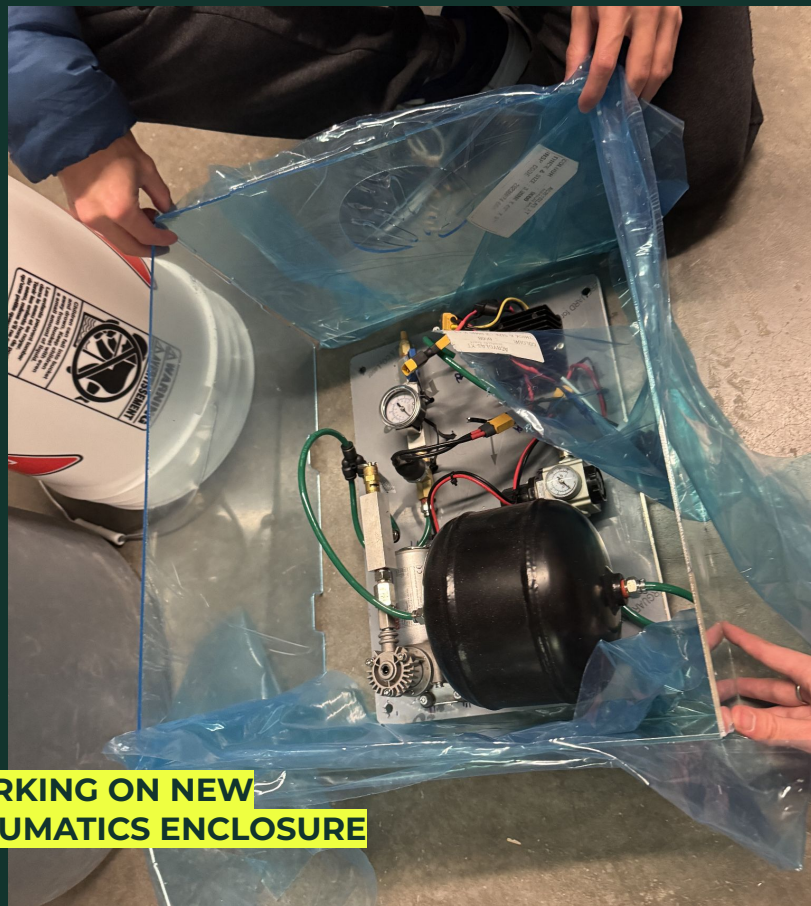


BEGIN MAPPING OUT NEW ELECTRONICS BOX... (VERY ROUGHLY!)





SOWING NEW RAMP MATERIAL



**WORKING ON NEW
PNEUMATICS ENCLOSURE**

2025 Esch Semi Finals Sign Up ☆ 📎 ☁

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

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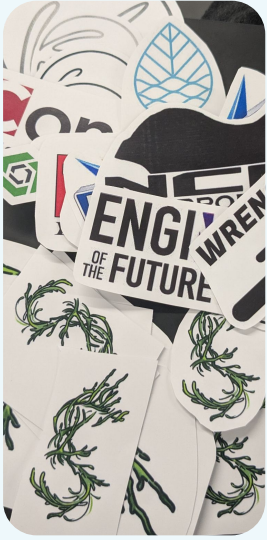
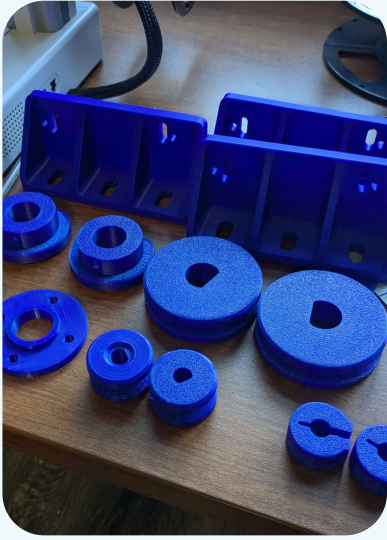
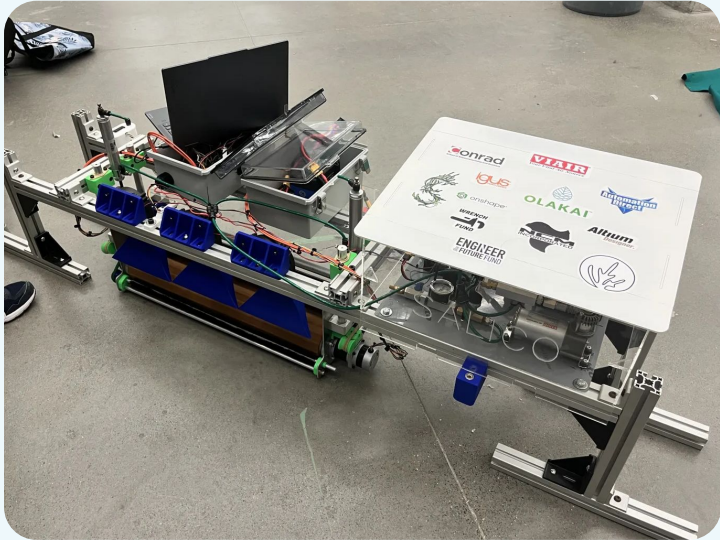
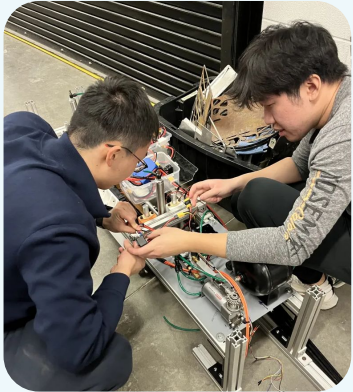
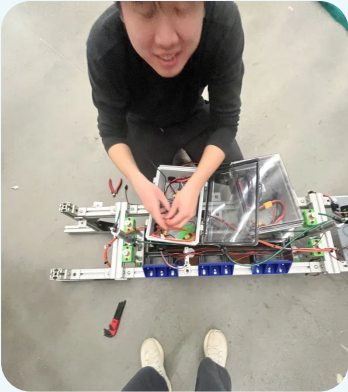
📁 Esch Pitch Competition Semi-Finals

Thursday March		
Time	Section 1	Section 2
5:00 PM	Bracket Bot	
5:10 PM	FocalPoint	TraySense
5:20 PM	EV-TREx	EverCycle
5:30 PM	Direct-Li	6ixSenseVR
5:40 PM	Medrone	Direct-Li
5:50 AM	PuttPilot	Woodpeckr
6:00 PM	WSearch	AWAIR
6:10 PM	Salico	KASA Labs
6:20 PM	Woodpeckr	PuttPilot
6:30 PM	HydroHeat - Group 20	Salico
6:40 PM	RetinAi	Sound2Sleep
6:50 PM		Gradient by Morph
7:00 PM	Simflection	RetinAi
7:10 PM		

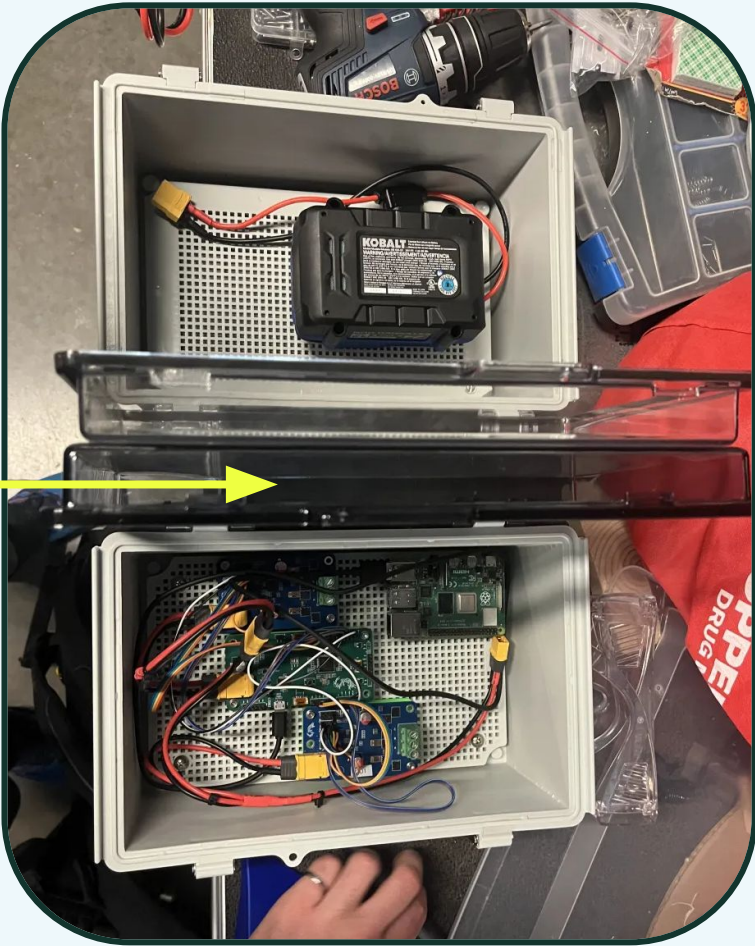
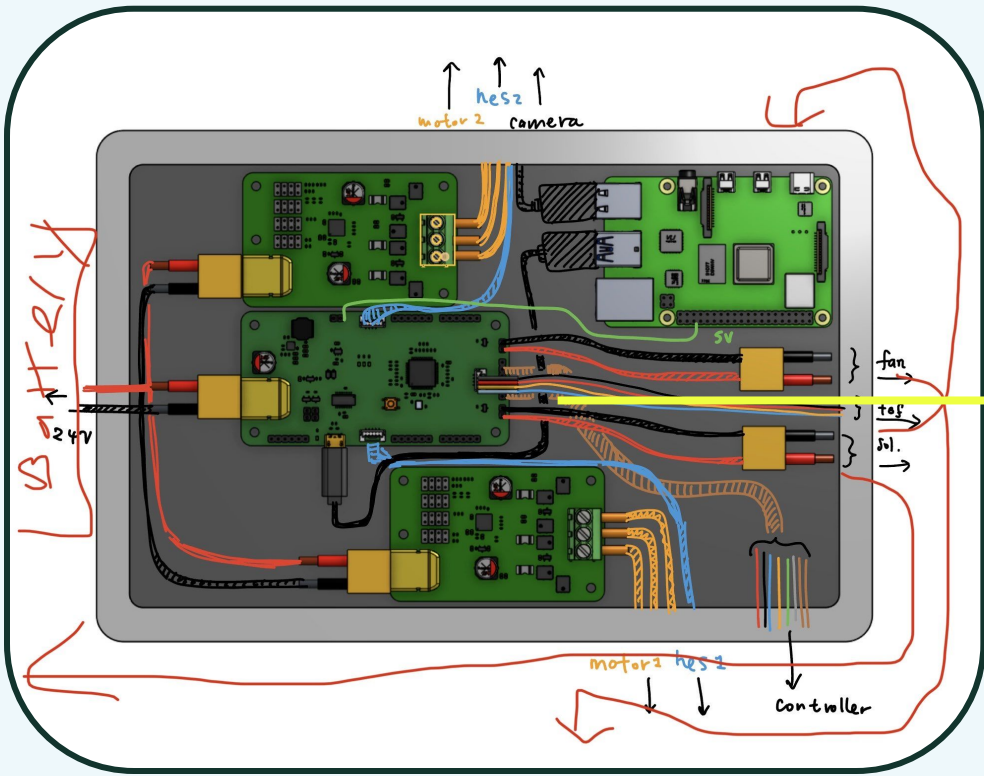
WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMI FINALS OF THE NORMAN ESCH PITCH ON TOMORROW (MARCH 6TH)!

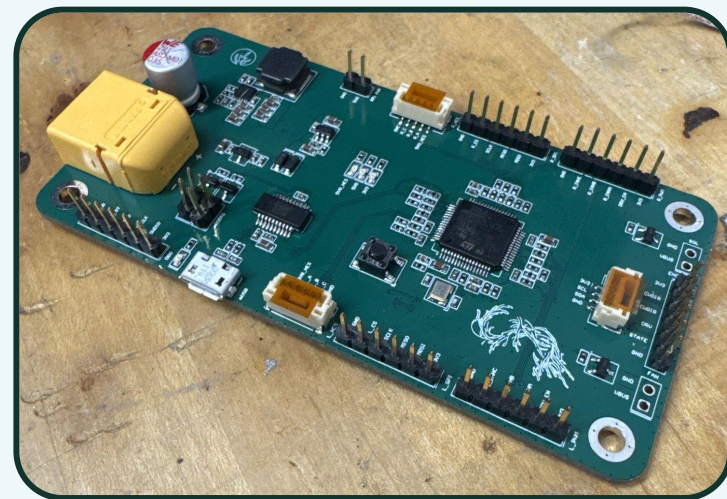
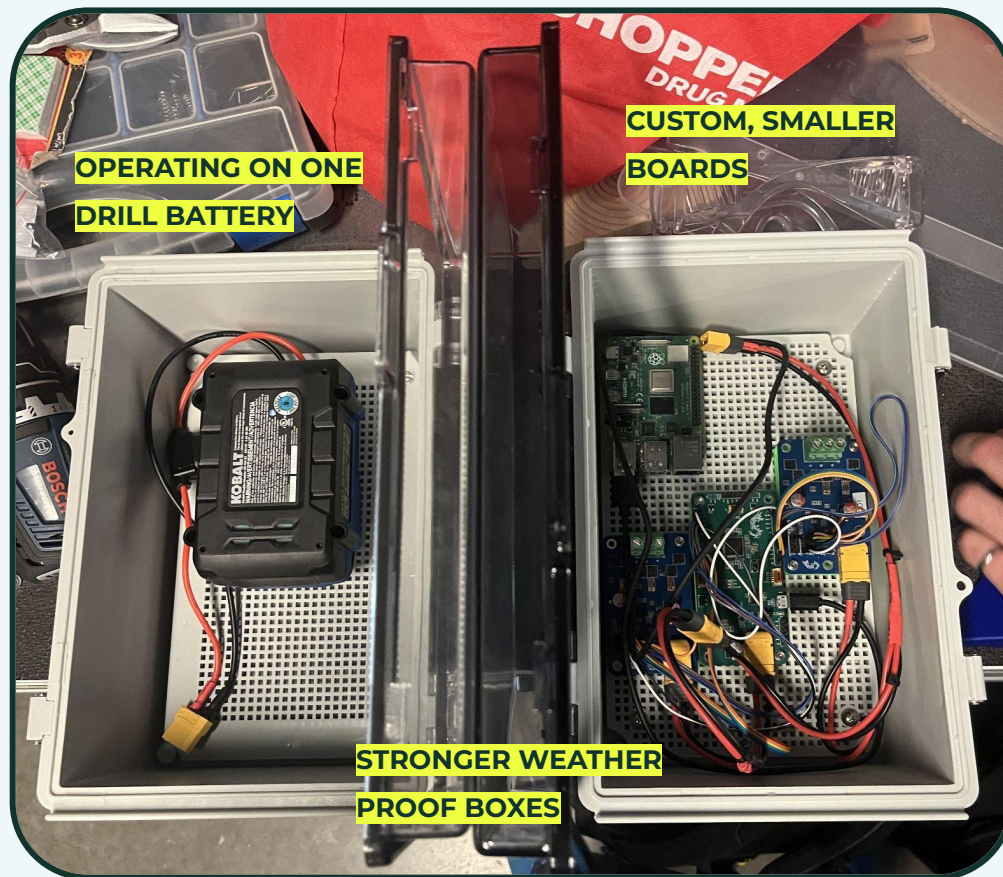
GETTING READY FOR SYMPOSIUM!

MAR 19 2025



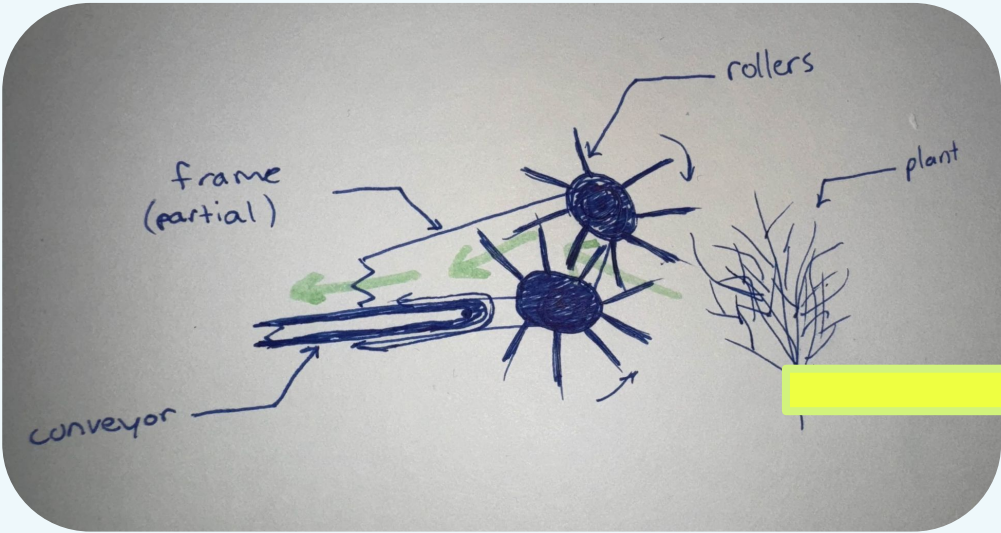
GETTING
READY FOR
SYMPOSIUM...





- New controller board with keyed JST connectors
- Easier to assemble, lower risk of wiring mistakes
- Waterproof boxes for electronics and battery with grommets for wiring

DESIGN EVOLUTION



AUGUST



OCTOBER



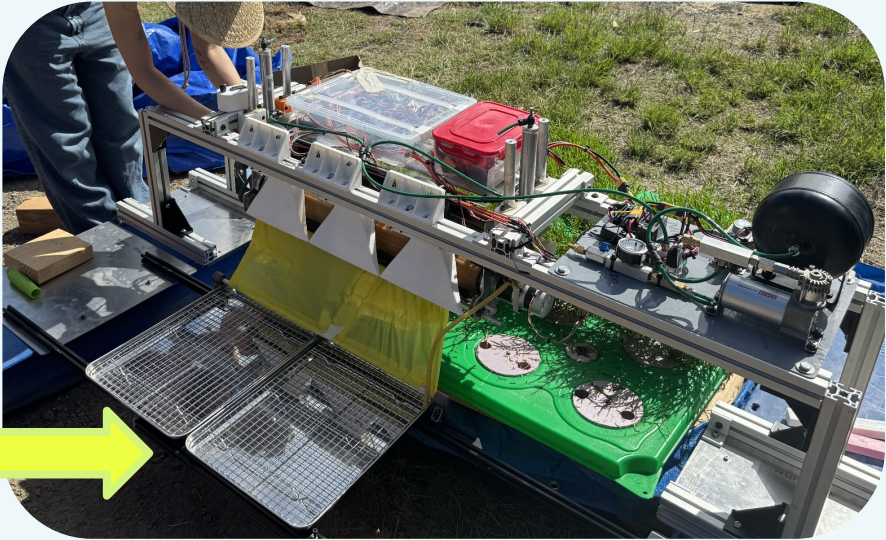
OCTOBER



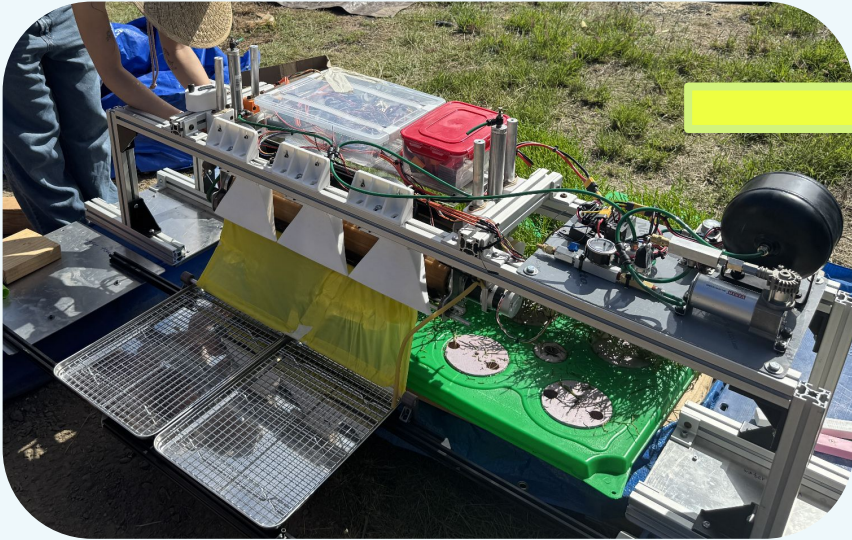
JANUARY



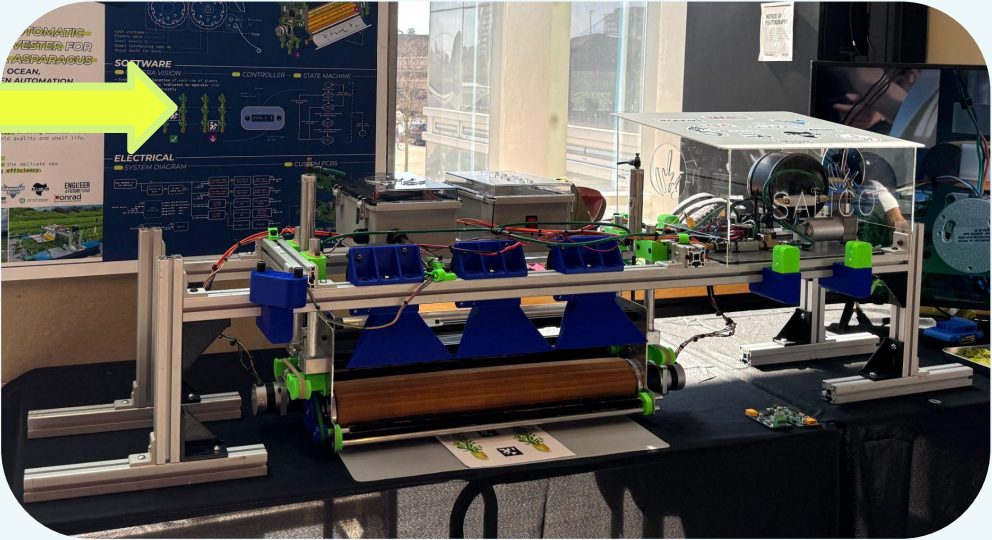
JANUARY



FEBRUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH

*STAY TUNED TO SEE SYMPOSIUM
DAY AND AWARD UPDATES...*

SALICO

Project Update

03.28.2025

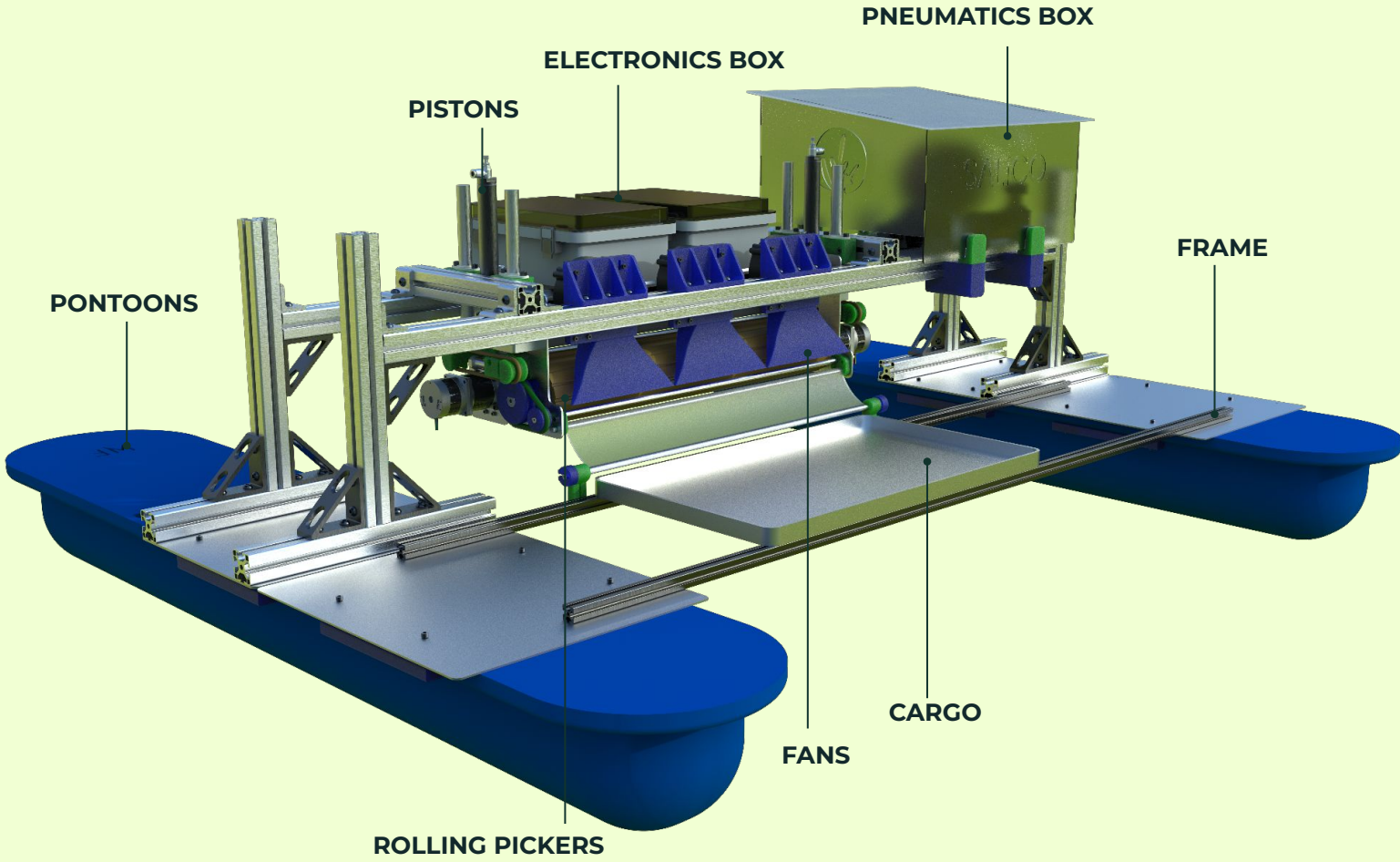


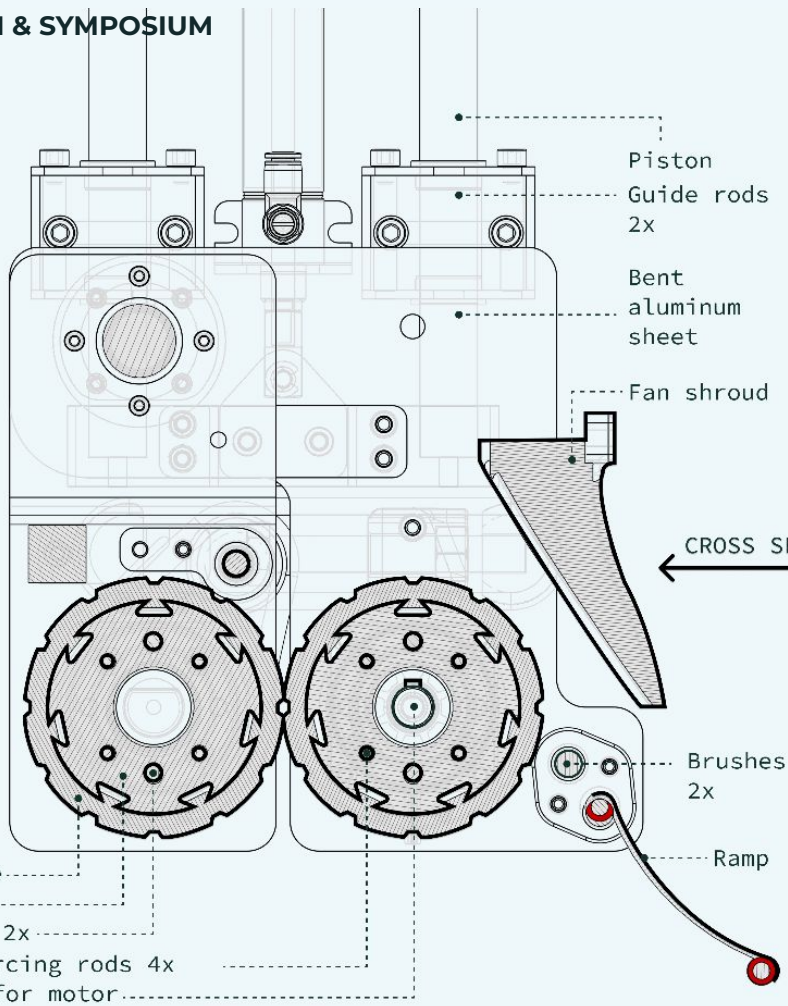
[illegible]

AGENDA

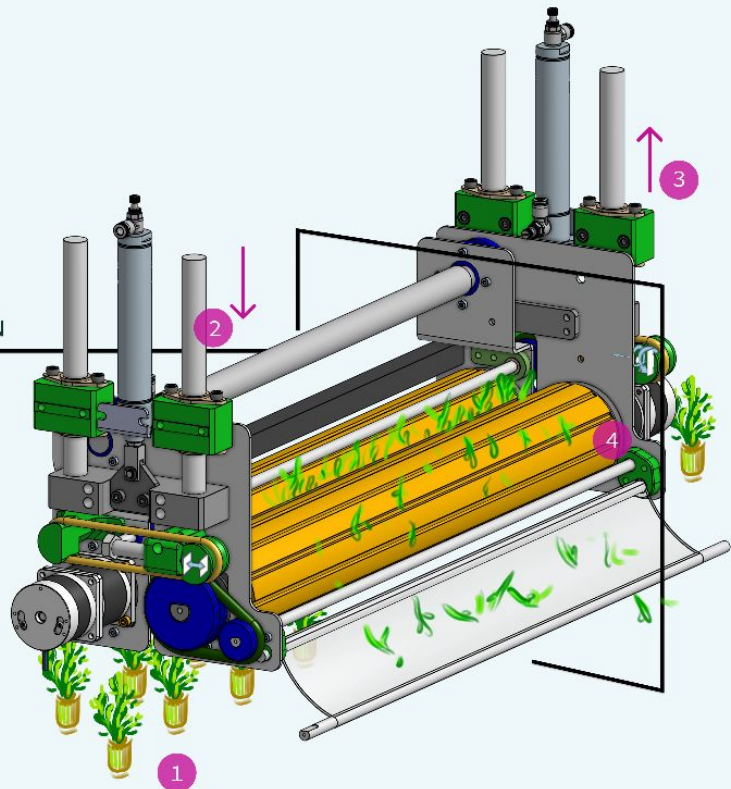
1. CURRENT DESIGN
2. SYMPOSIUM DAY
3. AWARDS AND FUNDING UPDATES
4. DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS
5. CURRENT PLANS
6. FUTURE PLANS

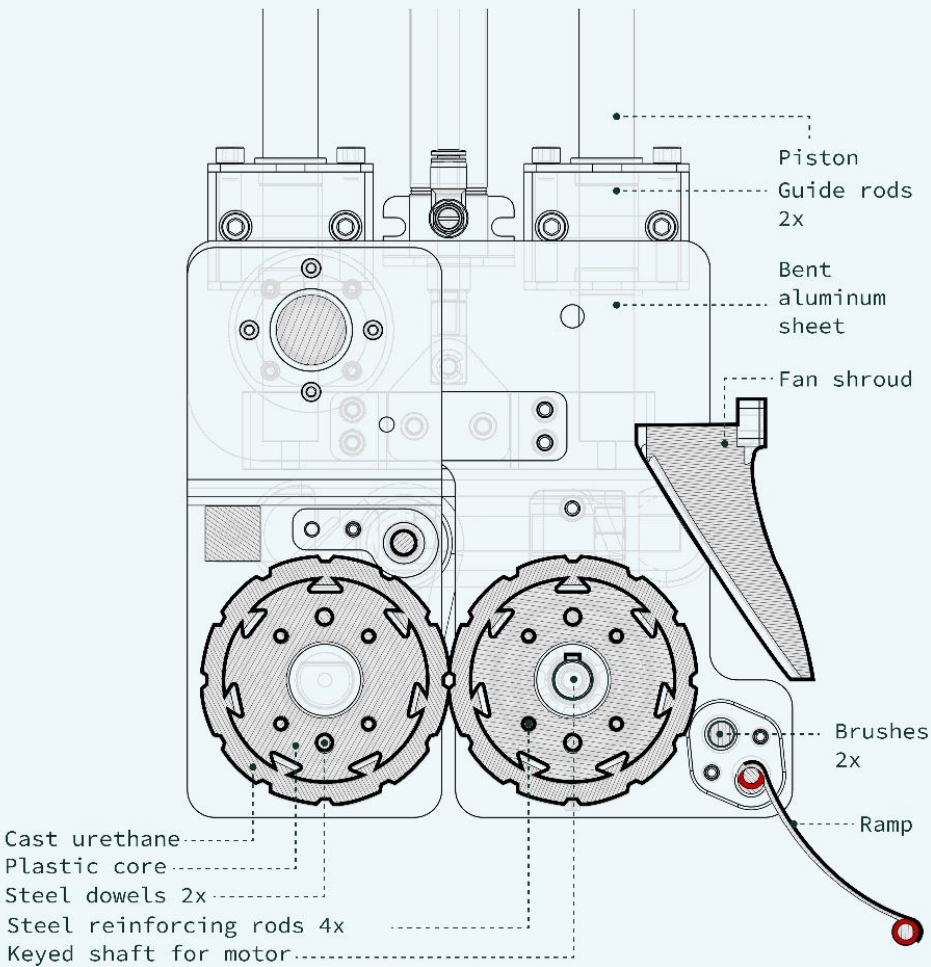
CURRENT DESIGN



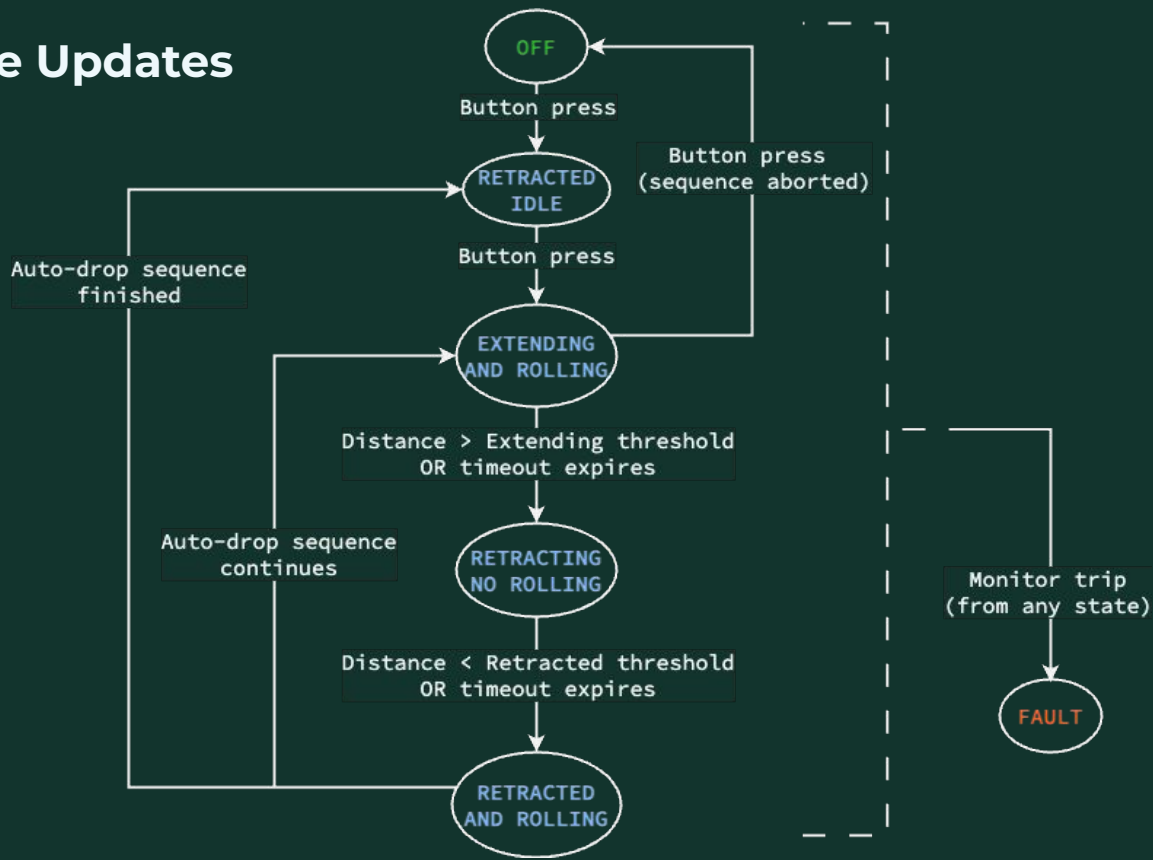


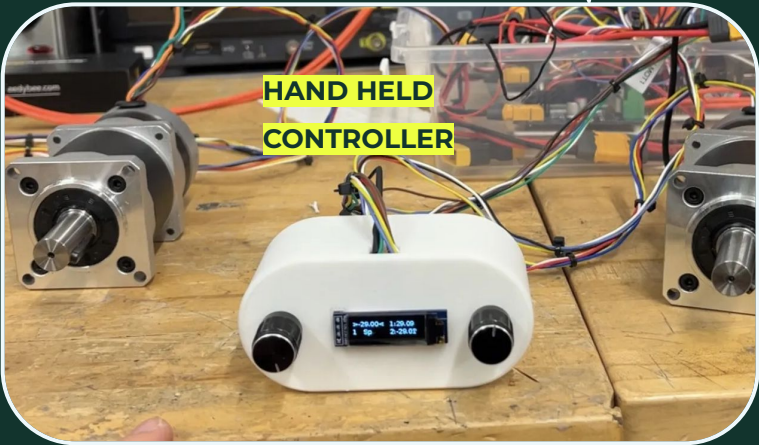
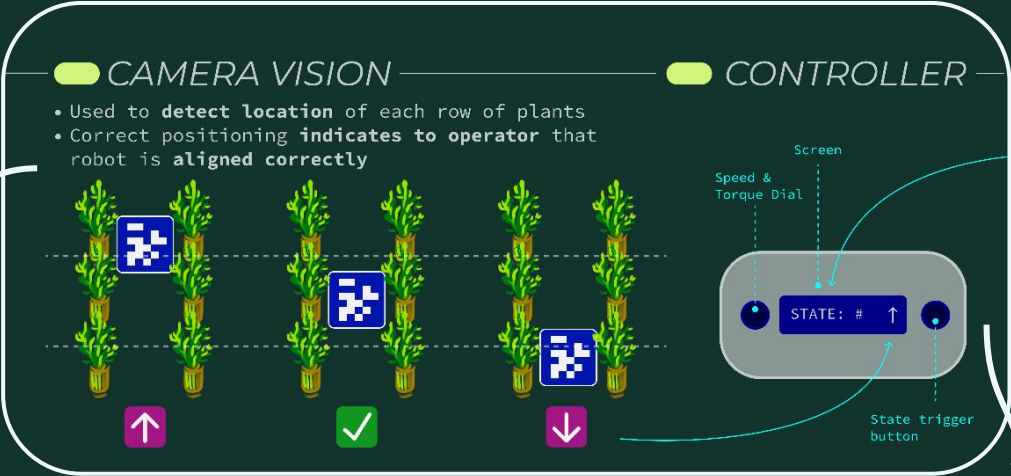
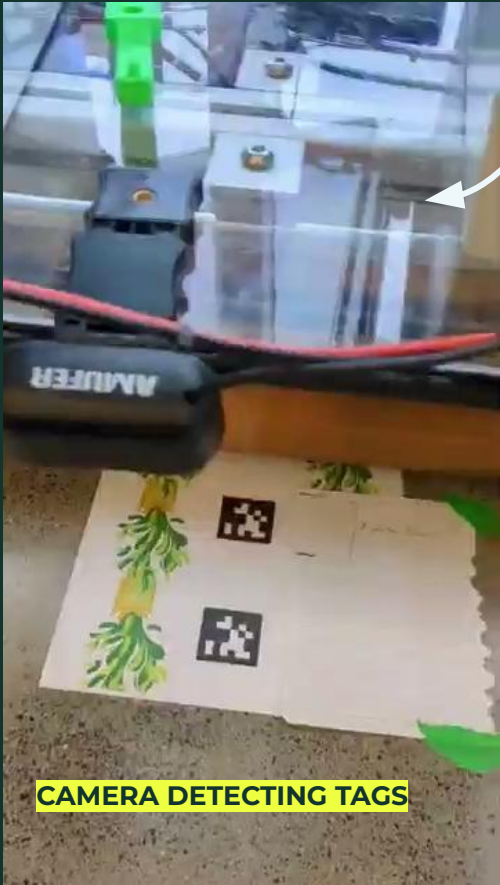
CROSS SECTION



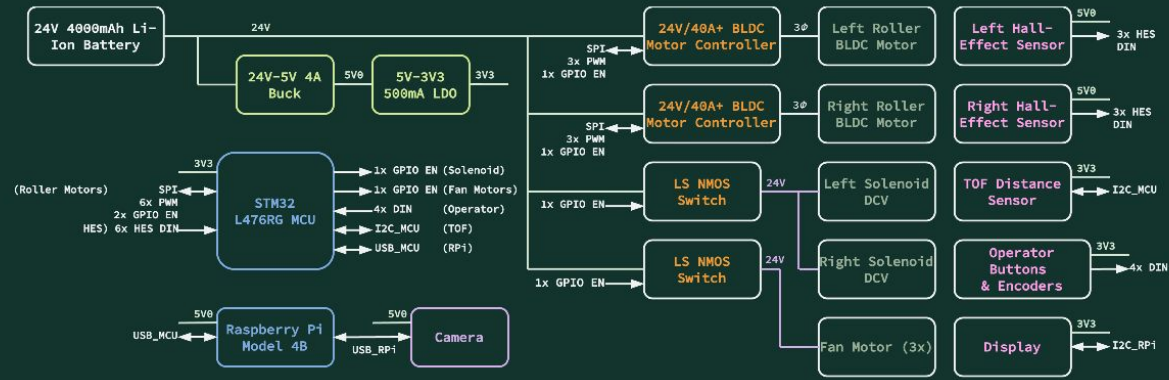


State Machine Updates

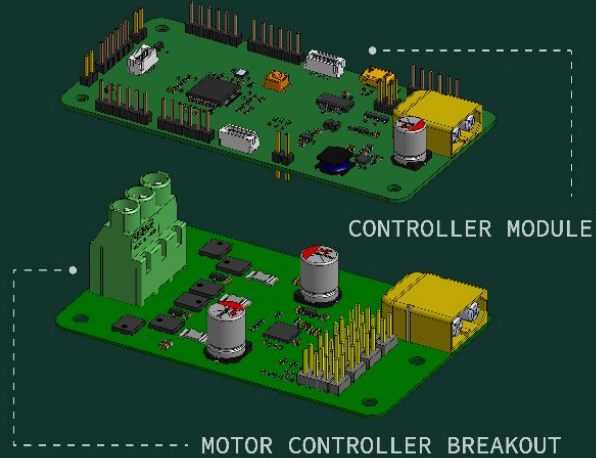




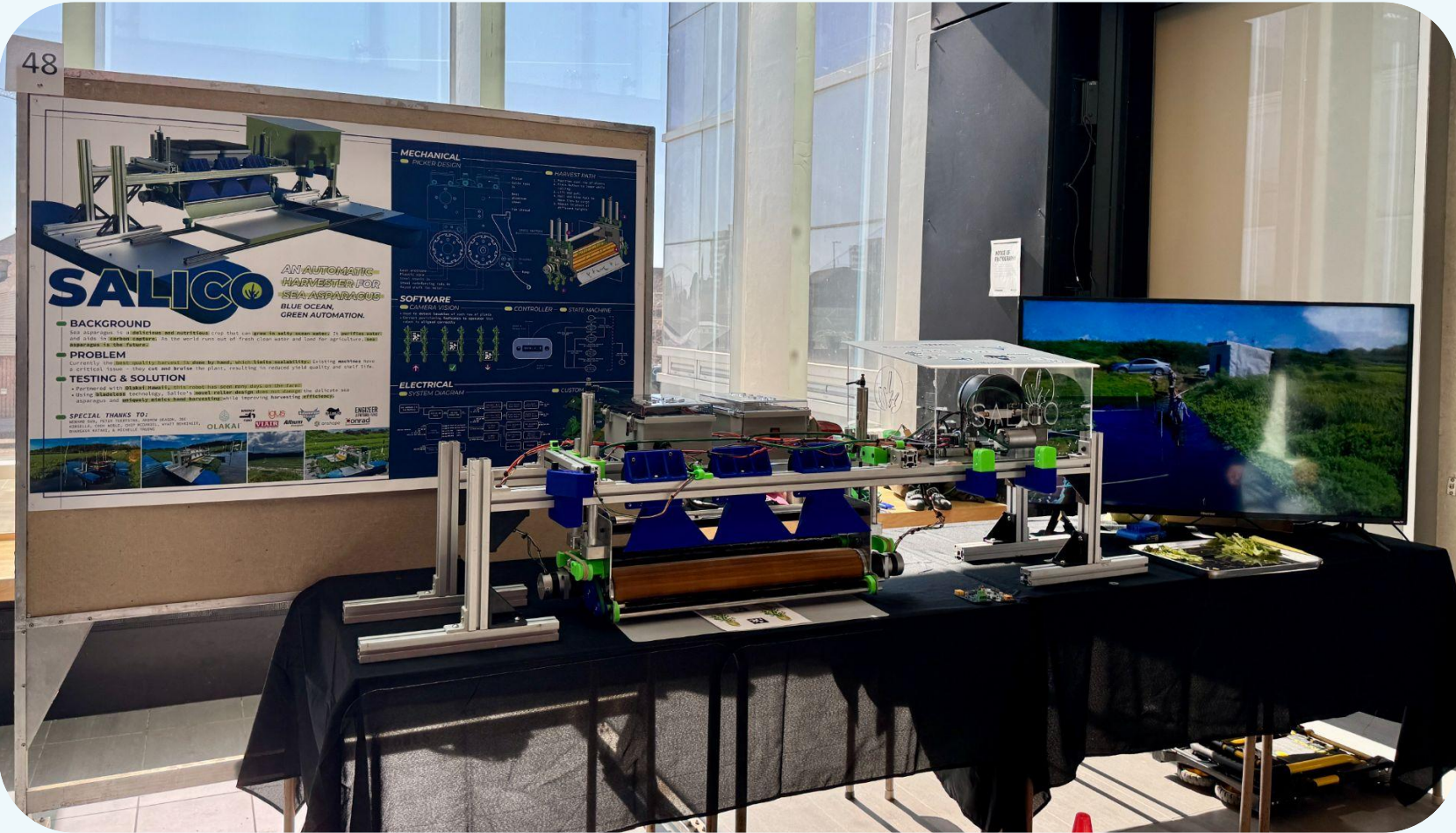
SYSTEM DIAGRAM



CUSTOM PCBS



SYMPOSIUM DAY!



48

POSTER

SALICO
AN AUTOMATIC HARVESTER FOR SEA ASPARAGUS
BLUE OCEAN, GREEN AUTOMATION.

BACKGROUND
Sea asparagus is a delicious and nutritious crop that can grow in salt water. It is a sustainable and healthy food source that can help reduce the impact of climate change on the environment.

PROBLEM
Currently, the harvesting of sea asparagus is done manually, which is a labor-intensive and time-consuming process. This makes it difficult for farmers to scale up their production and meet the growing demand for this crop.

TESTING & SOLUTION
Partnered with Salico, we designed and built a custom harvester that can automatically harvest sea asparagus. The harvester is equipped with a camera and a robotic arm that can identify and pick the crop with precision.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Salico, the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Salico team, and the Salico community.

MECHANICAL PICKER DESIGN
The harvester is designed to be compact and easy to transport. It features a custom-built frame and a robotic arm that can be adjusted to different heights and angles. The picker is made of stainless steel and is resistant to corrosion.

SOFTWARE
The harvester is controlled by a custom-built software system. The software is written in C++ and runs on a Raspberry Pi. It includes a camera vision module that can identify and track the crop, a controller module that manages the movement of the robotic arm, and a state machine module that coordinates the different steps of the harvesting process.

ELECTRICAL
The harvester is powered by a custom-built electrical system. The system includes a power supply, a motor, and a custom-built circuit board. The circuit board is designed to manage the power distribution and control the different components of the harvester.

PNEUMATICS
ENCLOSURE WITH
SPONSOR STICKERS

TV OF DRONE
FOOTAGE

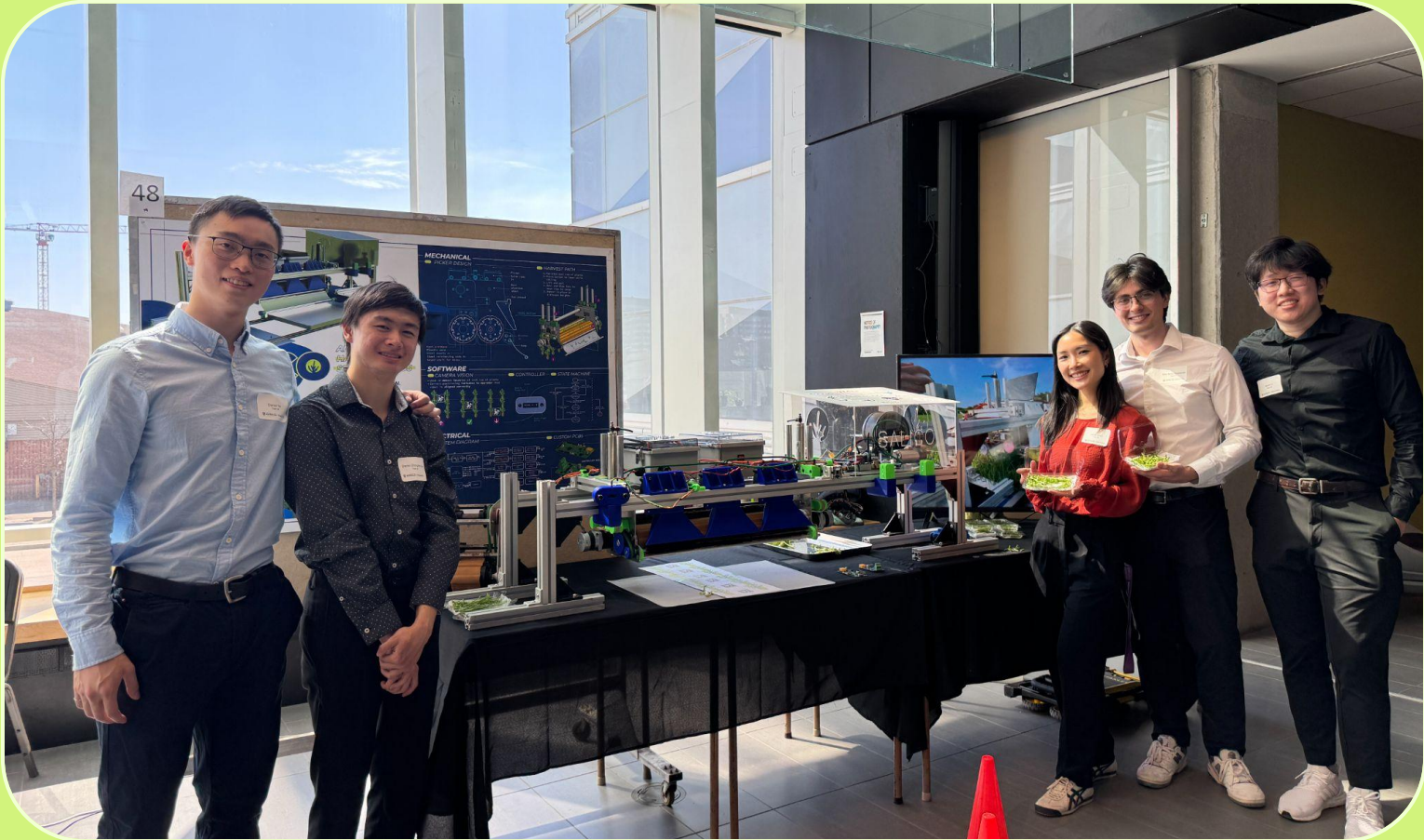
NEW BOXES

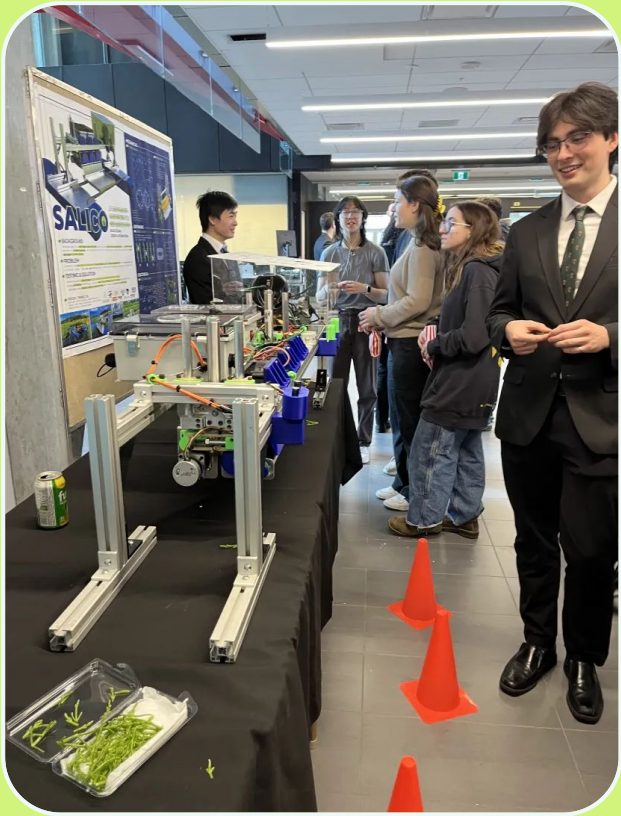
CONTROLLER

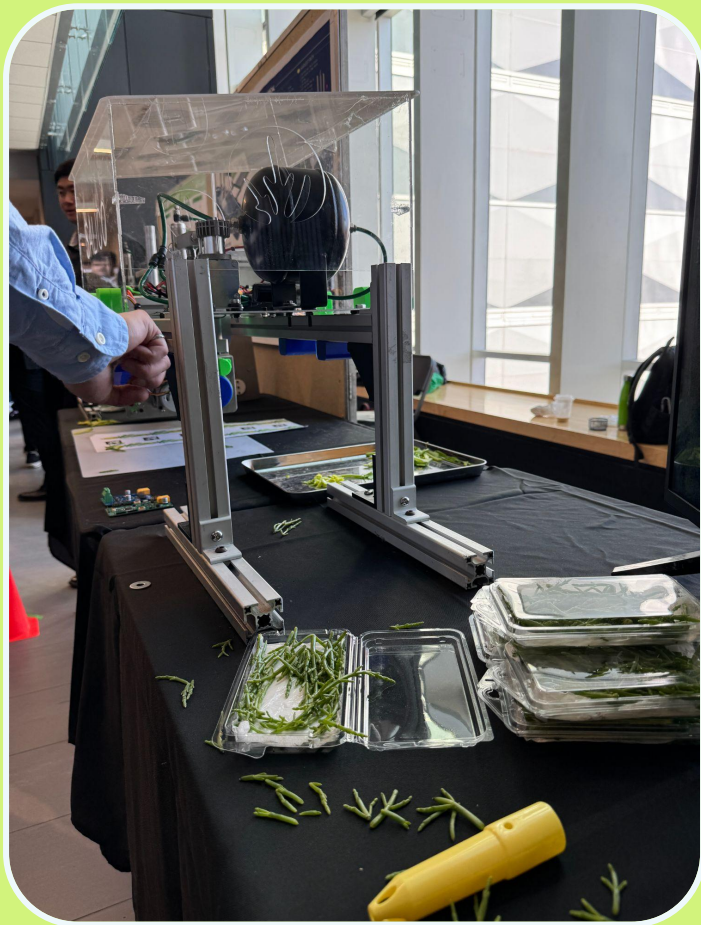
NEW LOOK

SEA ASPARAGUS
TO HAND OUT

CELERY FOR DEMO

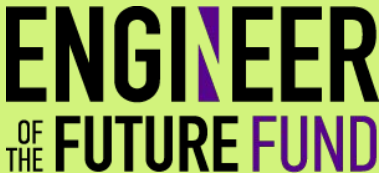
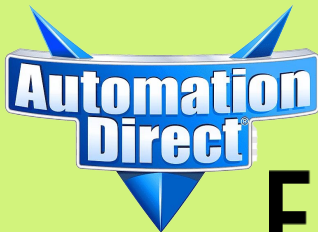


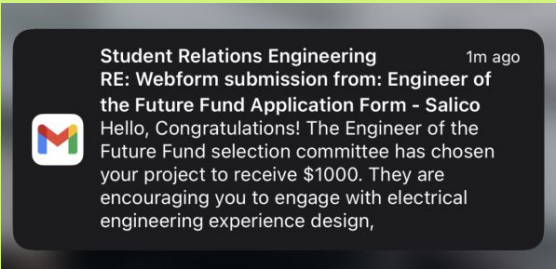




AWARDS & FUNDING!

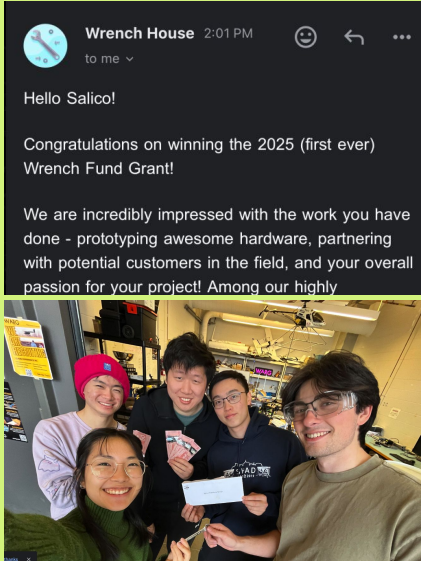
Partners so far...





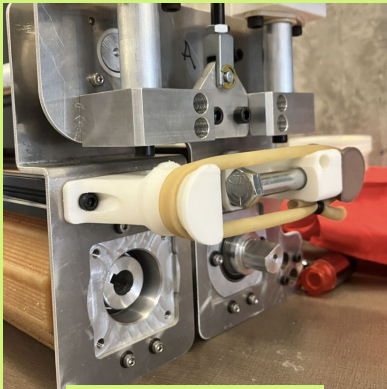
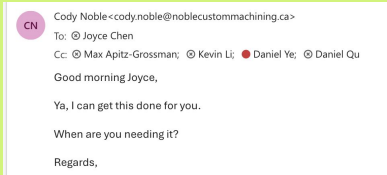
**ENGINEER
OF THE FUTURE FUND**

- \$1500



**WRENCH
FUND**

- \$300



**NCM
INCORPORATED**

You
Hi Chip, Thanks for your feedback - we've taken your suggestion for the meter-out components an...

Chip McDaniel <cmcdaniel@automationdirect.com>
To: O Joyce Chen

OK, great! The donation order has been placed – it should ship tomorrow – and you should hav

Chip

From: Joyce Chen <joyce.chen1@uwaterloo.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:24 PM



From: Bhargava Katari <bkatari@igus.net>
Sent: December 2, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Max Apitz-Grossman <mapitzgrossman@uwaterloo.ca>
Subject: Re: [EXT] UWaterloo Student Team Sponsors

Hello Max,

My colleague Milad is on vacation and I am taking care of the parts? If yes, please provide a your complete shipping



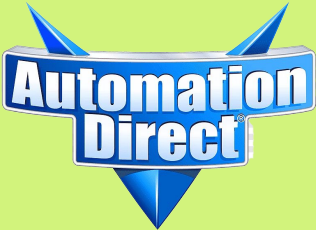
Daniel Ye
Hi Wyatt, just following up, would it be possible for Viar to sponsor those parts (or a portion of t... Wed 12/11/2024 2:45 PM

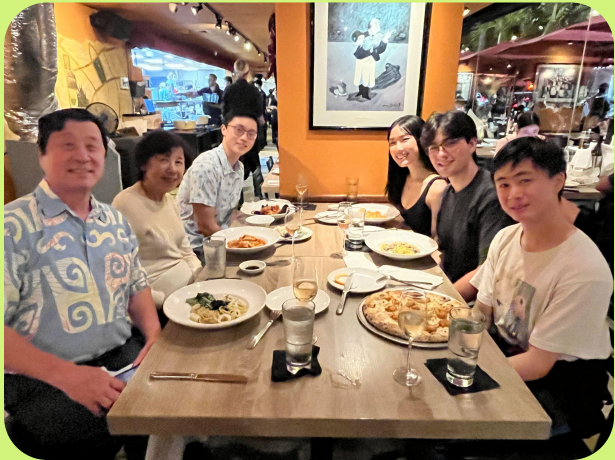
Wyatt Behringer <wyattb@viacorp.com>
To: @ Daniel Ye
Cc: Sponsorship <Sponsorship@viacorporation.ummicsoft.com>; @ Max Apitz-Grossman; +3 others Wed 12/11/2024 1:51 PM

Daniel,

Just need the shipping address for where you'd like the below shipped – all parts have been approved to ship out at no charge!

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL AMOUNT
00000	500 Compressor Kit w/ External Check Valve (12V, 8P)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00





OLAKAI™ - \$7176

NORMAN ESCH PITCH COMPETITION





**PITCH COMPETITION
FINALIST - \$5000**

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE
AWARD - \$4500**

**BEST OVERALL
PROJECT - DYSON
HEADSETS**



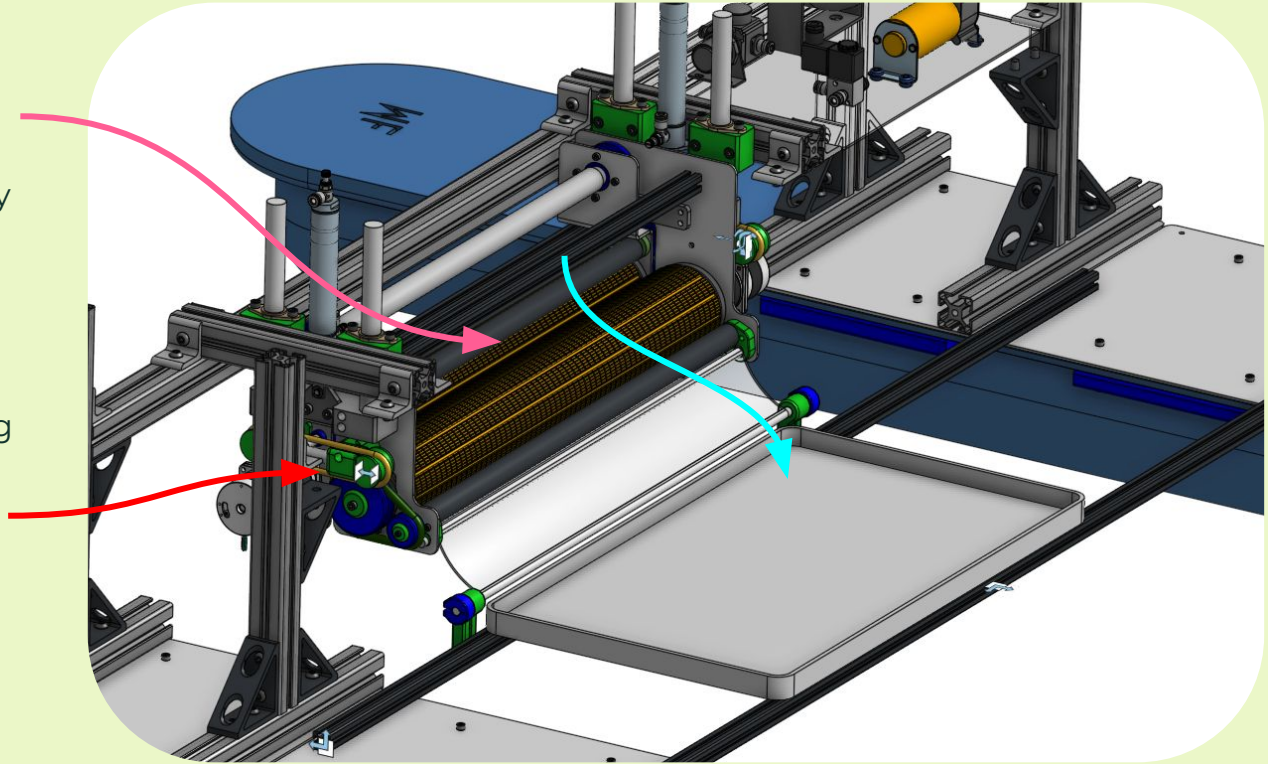
Budget Category	Budget Amount (CAD)	Amount Spent (CAD)	Amount Remaining (CAD)
Hardware parts	\$4,000.00	\$4,359.75	-\$359.75
Software fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operational items	\$1,000.00	\$658.46	\$341.54
Travel fees	\$7,000.00	\$11,197.26	-\$4,197.26
Total	\$12,000.00	\$16,215.47	-\$4,215.47
Funding - MTE481 (Split)	-	\$750.00	-
Funding - Engineer of the Future Fund (Split)	-	\$1,500	-
Funding - Wrench Fund (Received by Joyce)		\$300	
Funding - Wenhao <3 (Received by Daniel Ye)		\$7,175.32	
Funding - Norman Esch (**PENDING**)		\$9,500	
Remaining Total	-	-\$3,009.85	-

YAY!

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

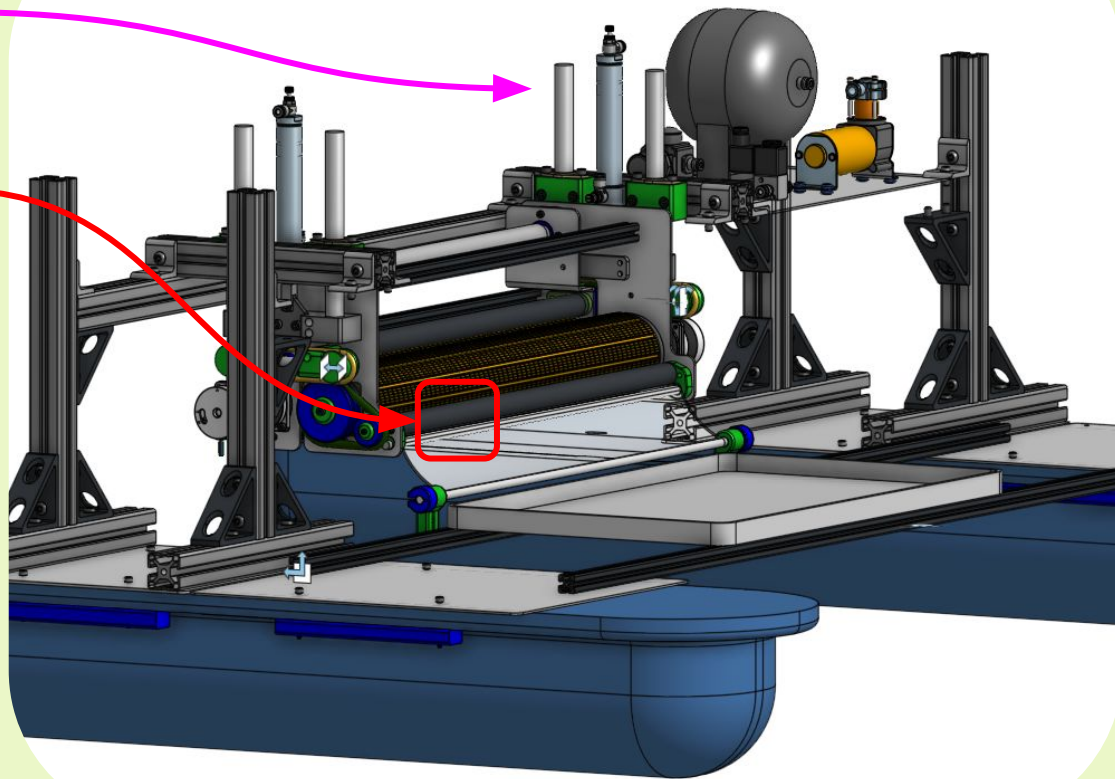
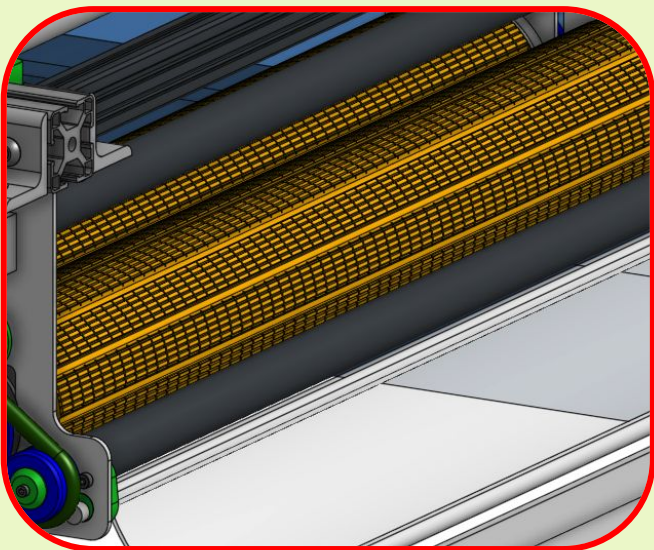
WHAT WORKED WELL:

1. Picking 4 plants at a time.
2. Good grip and rigidity.
3. Brush system accurately directed tips.
4. Everything floated well on the ponds.
5. Pneumatics were strong & fast.
6. Pulleys never slipped.



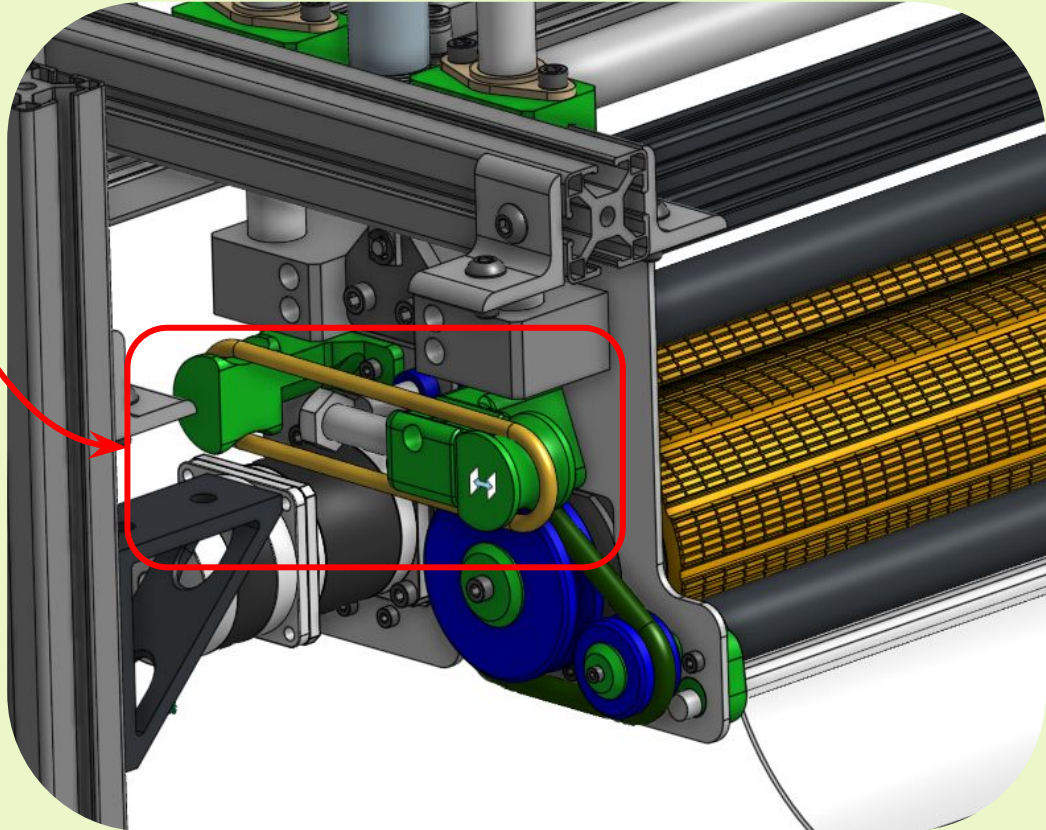
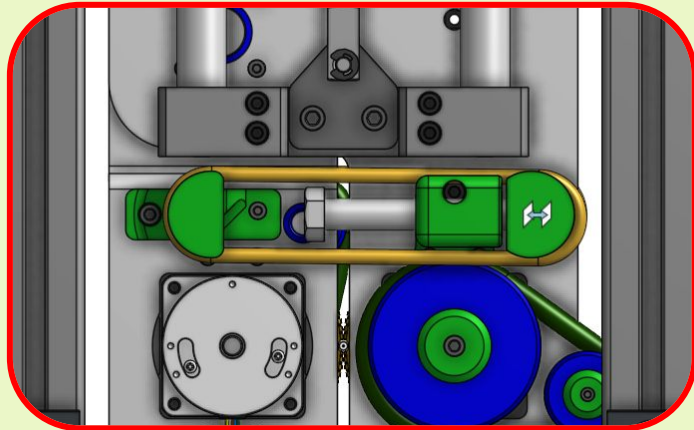
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Improve **pneumatic** system more **precise** & consistent. The piston and rods are too sensitive.
- Tune **brush-ramp connection**.



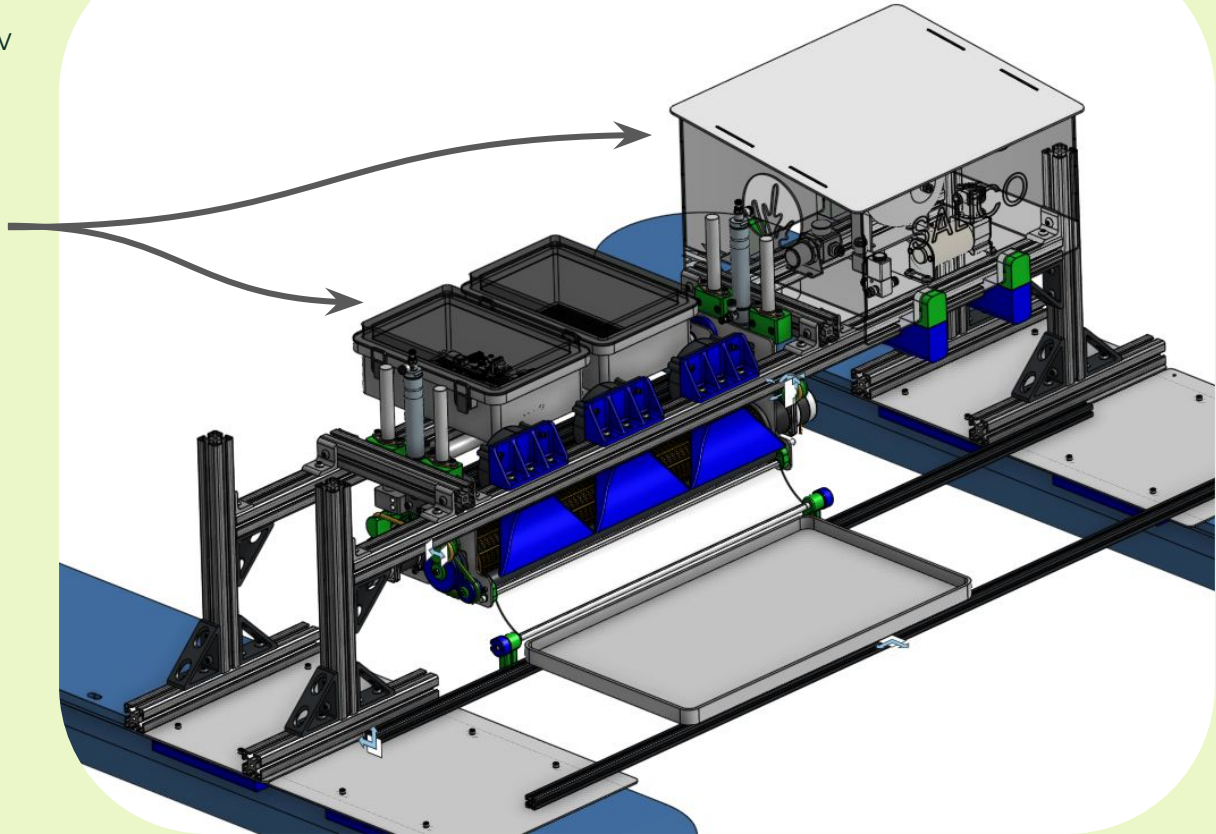
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The assembly is very **bulky** and **hard to handle**, ideally should be robust and **user friendly**.
- The tension **spring** should be constant force or electronically **adjustable**.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

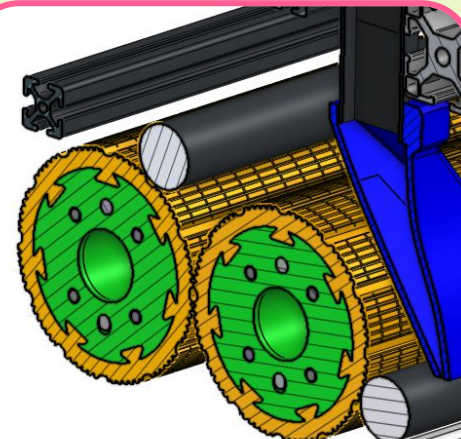
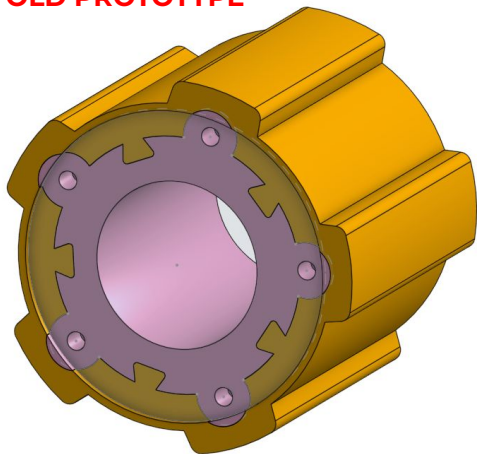
- Reduce the number of screw sizes used. **Simplify** the **assembly**.
- Make the **covers** to **weatherproof** the system.



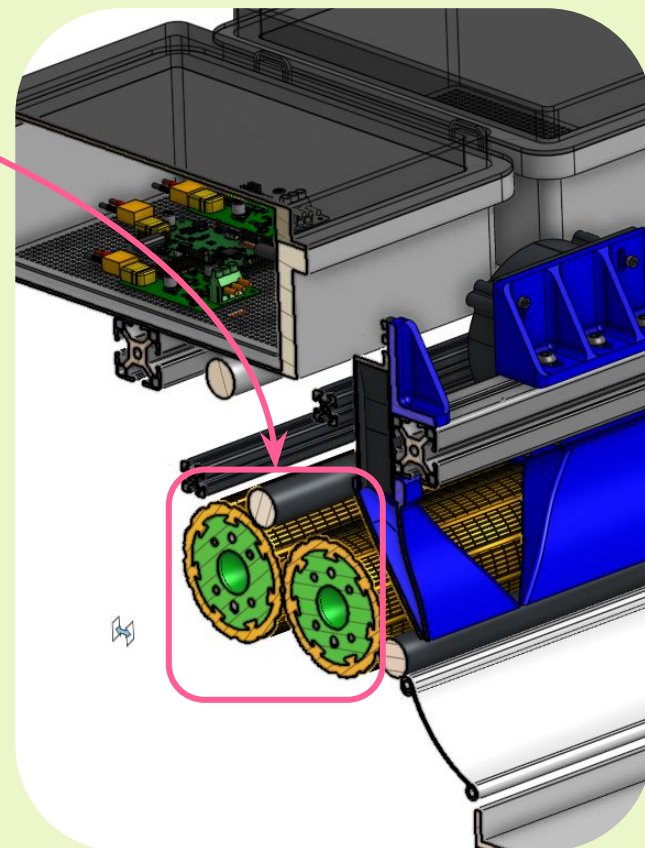
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Roller geometry** should be more gear-like.
 - More experimenting with shapes is required

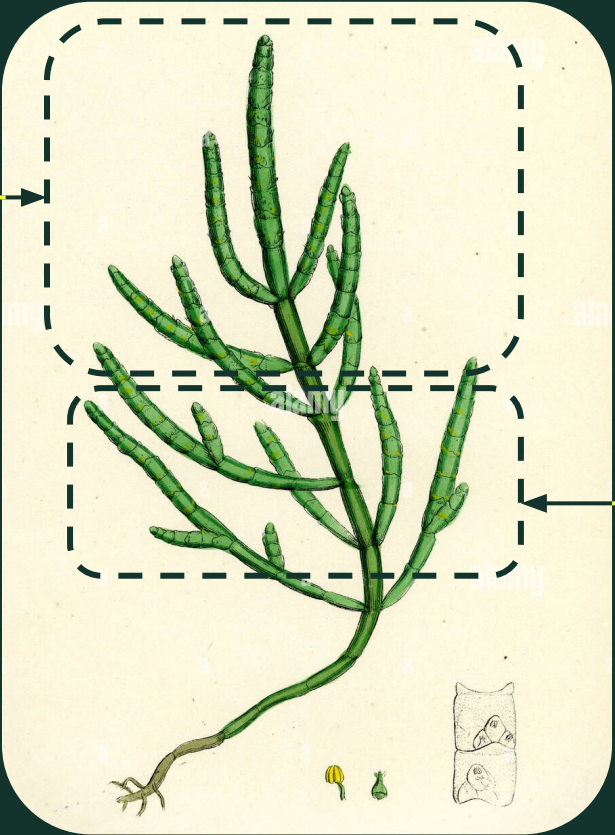
OLD PROTOTYPE



NEW PROTOTYPE, TOO ROUND



PICKED



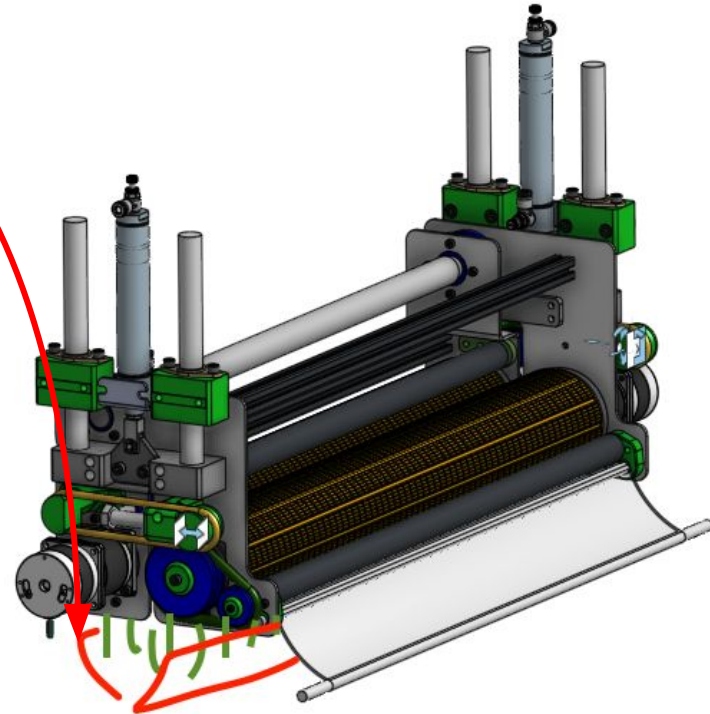
MISSED



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Try smaller rollers
- Add tusk-like system to prop up plants and hold them down.
- **Cones** still need improvements to stop them from being pulled up.

HOLD DOWN
THE CONE



HOLD UP THE PLANTS



A combination of the **roller geometry** & **brush ramp connection** problems caused many harvested tips to never make it to the ramp. (It was better using the new harvest procedure)

Entire robot is **unwieldy, hard to handle**. A redesign could be more robust, light, and user friendly.

The **cones** still kept being **pulled up**. We ended up working on directly planted roots.

Pneumatics and electronics still need proper **enclosures, covers, and sound damping**



WHAT WORKED WELL:

1. BLDC motor controllers work reliably across the wide range of RPM and bus voltage.
2. Pneumatic relay circuit with hysteresis works reliably cycling between 85-105 psi.
3. Bus power harnessing with rugged connector interfaces (XTs) demonstrated robustness against vibration and weathering.
4. Source-side protection circuits such as BMS (RCP, OVP, UVP, etc.), fuse, and toggle switch were effective for minimizing propagation of electrical failure across subsystems.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Improve isolation between motor phases and sensitive digital/analog interfaces.
2. Design and implement a system-tailored controller module to reduce harness complexity, improve harness reliability, and minimize form-factor of sub-circuits.
3. Implement load-side protection circuitry (RPP, RCP, OVP, UVP, etc.) to reduce propagation of electrical failure.
4. Use environmentally-tolerant harness termination for digital/analog interfaces with mechanical enclosures.

WHAT WORKED WELL:

1. Closed-loop speed control of motors with torque limiting
2. Clear operation states with easily adjustable timings
3. Operator controller interface was easy to use

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Improved sensing on up/down piston motion for more effective automated picking
2. Adjustable roller speed control based on piston drop speed
3. More reliable controller interface (debounce buttons and fix screen issues)
4. More reliable monitoring interface to ensure correct fault detection for safe operation



BLUE **OCEAN**,
GREEN **AUTOMATION**.



THANK YOU