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## Welcome to the first newsletter of HERON



Dear Readers,

The Institute of Communications and Computer Systems (ICCS) and project's consortium are pleased to welcome you to the first newsletter of **HERON – Improved Robotic Platform to perform Maintenance and Upgrading Roadworks**. HERON project will develop an automated robotic platform, capable to perform multiple maintenance tasks. The proposed system is expected to support and facilitate the pre/post intervention activities in road infrastructures.

HERON will advance research in the fields of Robotics, Artificial intelligence and Augmented Reality, and develop technologies with immense positive impact on road transport infrastructure in Europe and beyond.

Through our newsletters, we will keep you informed on how the project is progressing and share with you its key results and research activities/endeavors. The first issue of the newsletter is intended to provide you with an overview of project objectives and share key updates thus far.

On behalf of HERON consortium, we wish you a pleasant read.

HERON Coordinator  
ICCS

**About HERON**

Robotics, Artificial intelligence and Augmented Reality are creating new opportunities and benefits for society. They can prove immensely useful for road transport infrastructure. On one hand, they can improve occupational safety, create a healthy working environment for road workers and reduce fatalities due to accidents and toxic fumes. On the other hand they can also reduce traffic disruptions due to maintenance works and decrease repair costs.

In this context HERON aims to develop an integrated automated system to perform maintenance and upgrading roadworks, such as sealing cracks, patching potholes, rejuvenating asphalt, autonomously replacing CUD elements and painting markings. HERON also intends to support the pre/post-intervention phases by facilitating visual inspections and helping dispense/remove traffic cones in an automated and controlled manner.

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## HERON KICK-STARTS

Though the concept and preparation of HERON had already started in the proposal development phase, HERON was officially kick-started last year with a kick-off meeting attended by all partners.

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## HERON PRESENTED AT ASECAP DAYS 2021

HERON consortium partners Olympia Odos and project coordinator ICCS presented the HERON project at the high visibility [ASECAP Days 2021](#) event and talked about "*A robotic-based communized platform for automatic maintenance of road infrastructures.*"

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## HERON PRESENTED AT CORTE PLENARY MEETING 2021

CORTE a consortium partner of HERON, is an international organization that brings together road transport organizations from across Europe and beyond. CORTE presented an overview of HERON at its plenary meeting held at Brussels, Belgium on Dec 1, 2021.

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## HERON YOUTUBE CHANNEL LAUNCHED



## Around Europe and beyond

### Artificial Intelligence is creating road maintenance savings

- Recent advances in cost and performance control are helping local authorities cut costs.

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### Digital twin technology set to modernize UK road maintenance

- National Highways will create a virtual network to help identify potential problems before they happen.

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### Robots pave busy highway in China

- A fleet of autonomous road construction vehicles was used to resurface a stretch of China's busiest motorway.

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## PROJECT IN SPOTLIGHT - OMICRON

OMICRON, funded by the EU under the same work program as HERON, is working to develop an intelligent asset management platform (IAMP) with a vast portfolio of area-specific innovative technologies to increase the construction, maintenance, renewal, and upgrade of the EU road network. The project will address the entire road network system, focusing on digital inspection technologies implementation, road digital twin development, construction of a decision support tool, intelligent construction development, and intervention solution for infrastructures. The IAMP will be interconnected by a building information modelling (BIM) oriented digital twin to the decision support tool to enable industrialisation and automation of several road management functions, demonstrated in Italy and Spain.



Intelligent Road Asset Management Platform

## Upcoming Events



- HERON will be presented at the stakeholder event of the PANOPTIS consensus building workshop. [READ MORE](#)

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**This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 955356.**

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