

Wearable Technology for the Meat Processing Industry

Project Report Reference: 2016-1048

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Project Description

AMPC project 2016-1048 was undertaken to determine if red meat processing facilities would benefit from the use of wearable technologies.

Project Content

Wearable technology offers a portable platform in which to deploy applications that sense, autonomously interpret and communicate as is done now with a modern smartphone. Unlike smartphones, wearable technologies are not constrained by the dimensions of the phone and thus offer new and potentially transformative ways of performing tasks in the workplace.

This project involved performing a literature review of wearable technologies with potential application to red meat processing facilities and conducting interviews with AMPC members and partners. A wearable technology workshop was also organized to allow AMPC members and partners to communicate directly with researchers in the area of wearable technology.

Project Outcome

The main outcomes of this project are six directions which introduce wearable technologies in to red meat processing facilities. The potential applications address problems in quality assurance, human resources, facility management and health and safety.

Three of the potential applications were proposed by industry representatives who attended the wearable technology workshop. The remaining three applications were proposed by the report author using information obtained from interviews and the wearable technology workshop.

Four out of the six proposed future directions involve the use of smart glasses. The ability of smart glasses to push, pull and interact with information in real time whilst allowing the wearer to have full use of their hands appears to be the major factor driving interest in the device.

Benefit for Industry

This project provides AMPC members and the wider industry with an initial view of wearable technology and how the technology might address some of the issues found inside red meat processing facilities.

The report can be used by the industry when making predictions about the roles and capabilities of personnel in a meat processing facility of the future. The report can also be consulted when developing a digital strategy for individual businesses and the industry as a whole.

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