

'Innovation in Construction' ICE
11th January 2012



Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction

An Innovation and Knowledge Centre

Introduction to the Cambridge IKC and applications
of sensor technologies to construction

Professor Robert Mair
Head of Civil and Environmental Engineering

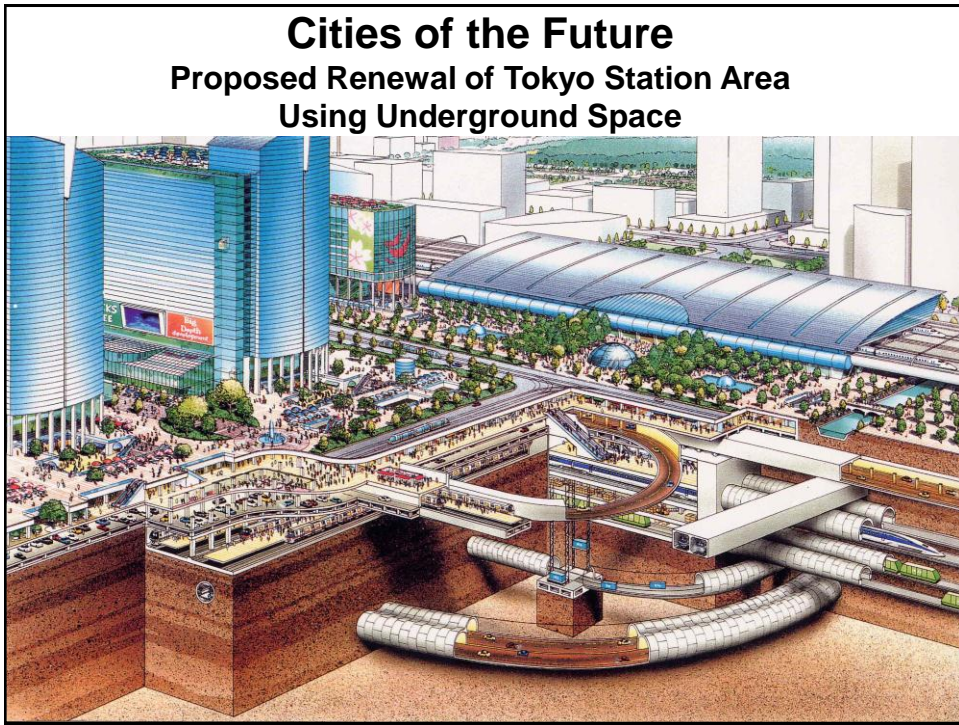
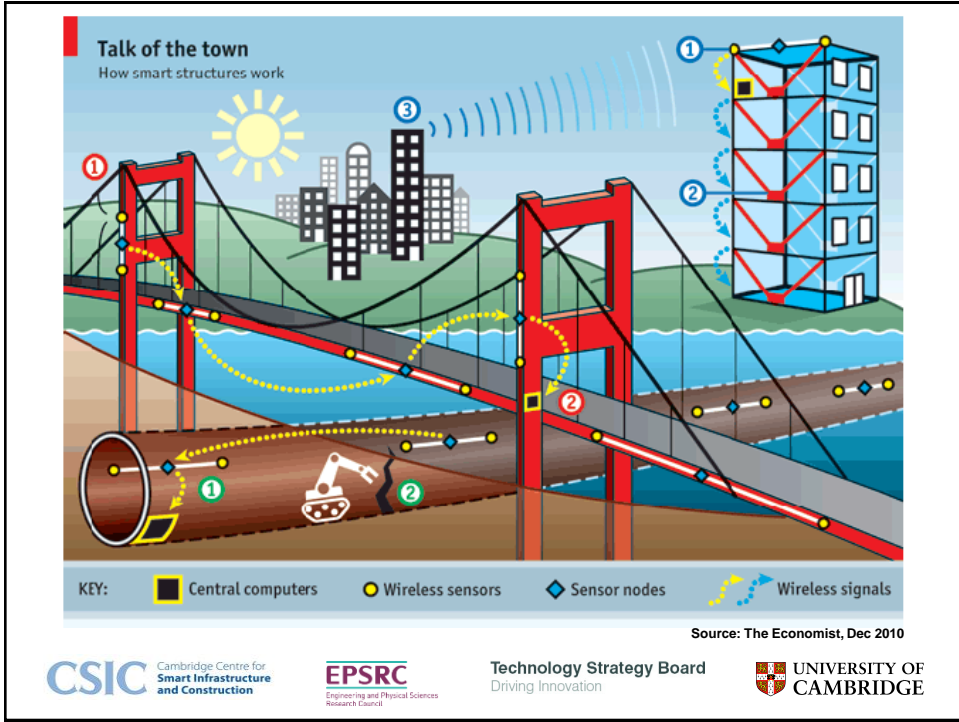


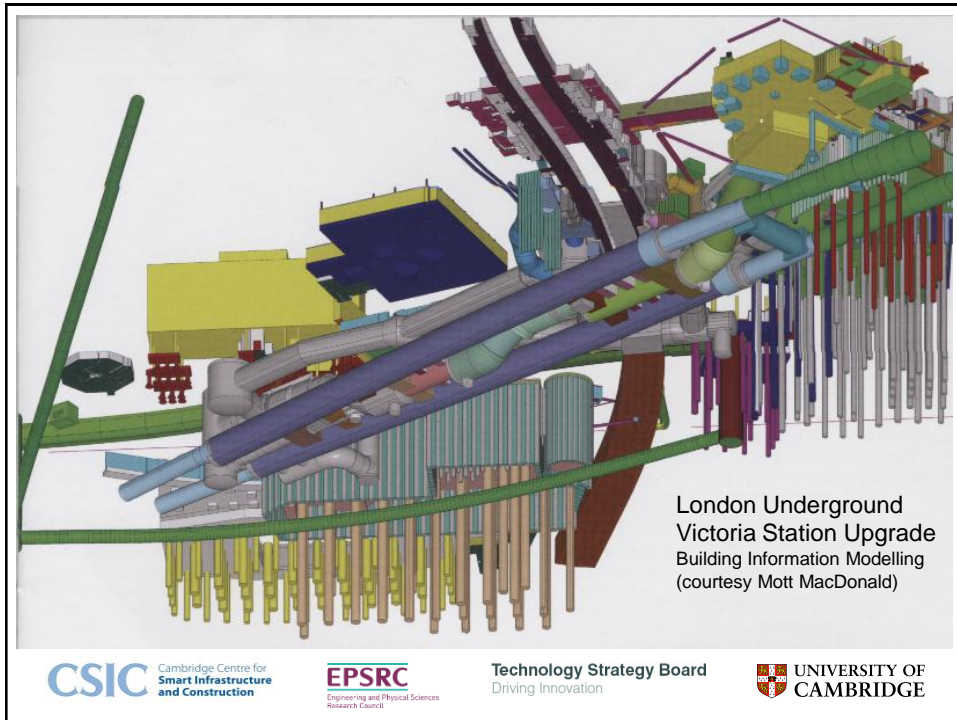
Context of the IKC: 21st Century Infrastructure and Construction

- A high-quality national infrastructure is essential for supporting economic growth and productivity, attracting globally-mobile businesses to the UK, and for promoting social well-being*
- Modern construction and infrastructure needs to be
 - Optimised in terms of efficiency, cost, low carbon footprint and service quality
 - Robust, resilient and adaptable to changing patterns
 - Innovative across all sectors – driven by business in partnership with government

*A National Infrastructure for the 21st Century. Council for Science and Technology, 2009





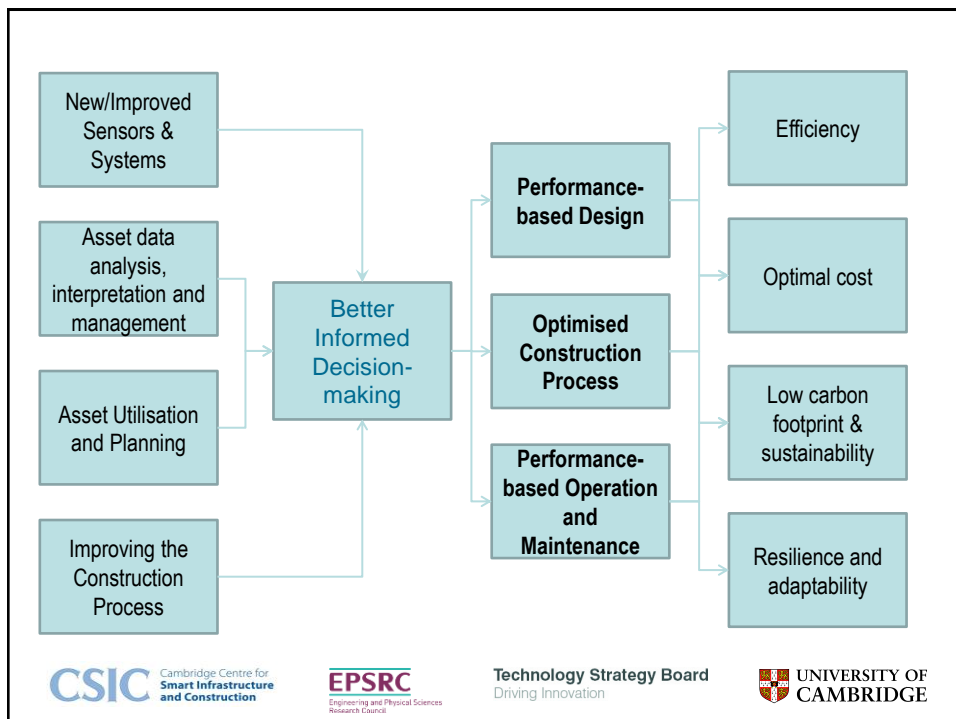


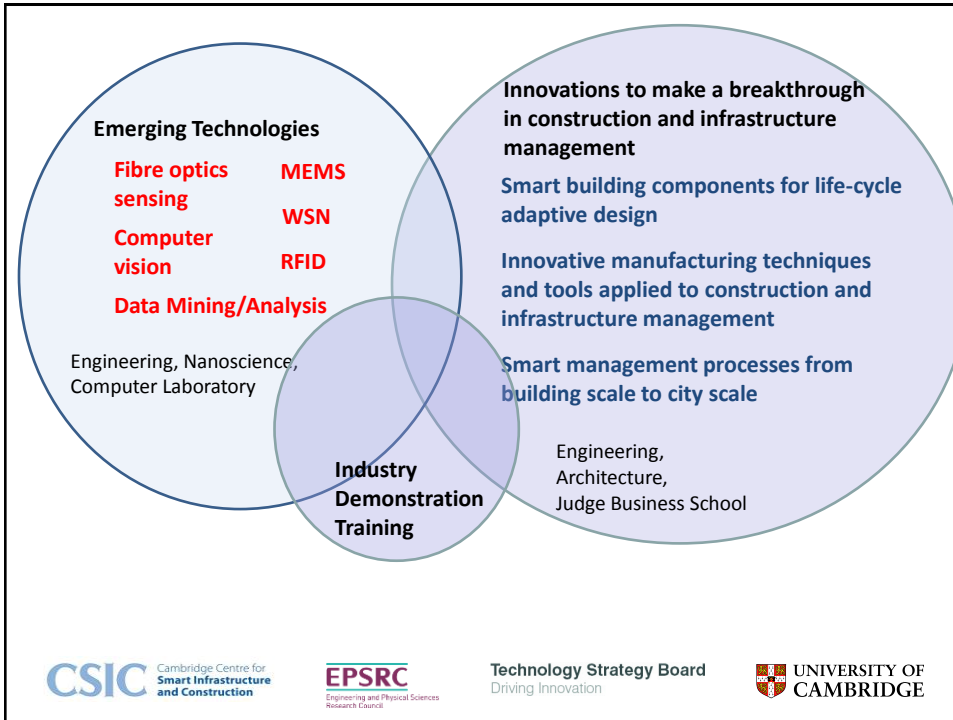
The Vision

- Smart infrastructure to transform industry
- Cradle-to-grave through whole life cycle
- Develop and commercialise emerging technologies
 - latest sensor technologies
 - data management tools
 - manufacturing techniques and tools
 - supply chain management processes
 - management of the built environment
- Interdisciplinary
- Exploitation in very large market

Innovation & Knowledge Centre Smart Infrastructure and Construction

- Exploitation and knowledge transfer to UK construction & infrastructure industry in new way
- Training, skill development and people pipeline
- Technology demonstrations
- Development of industry networks
 - a new Smart Infrastructure industry
 - spin-out companies





Innovative Optical Fibre Sensing

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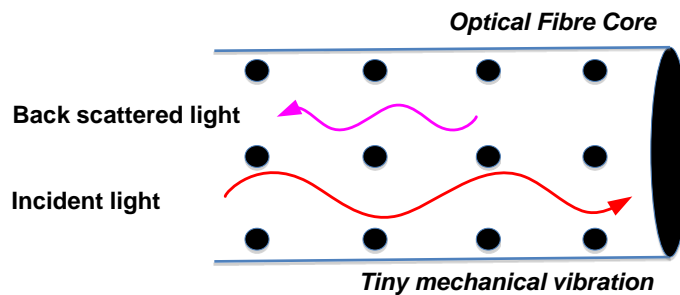
EPSRC Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Technology Strategy Board Driving Innovation

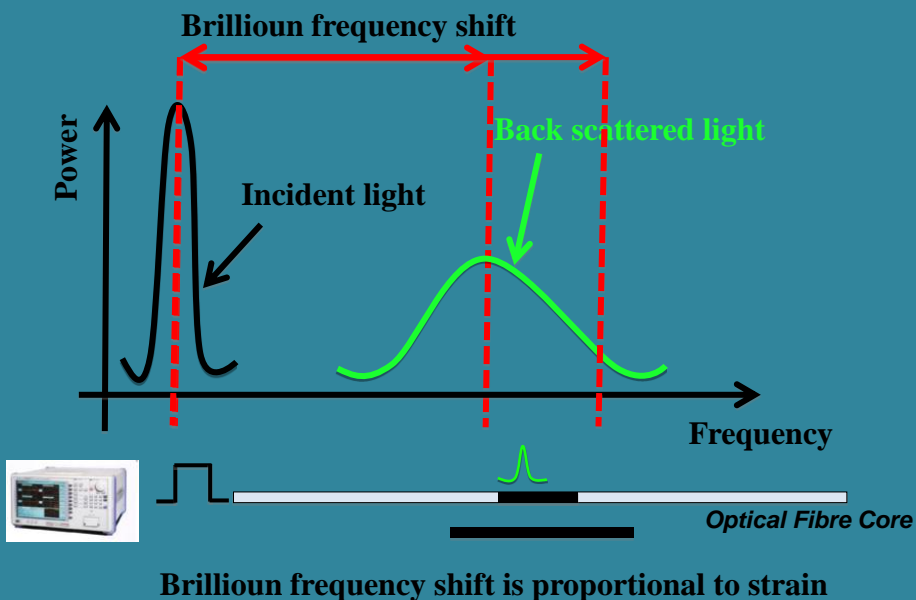
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How can optical fibres measure strain?

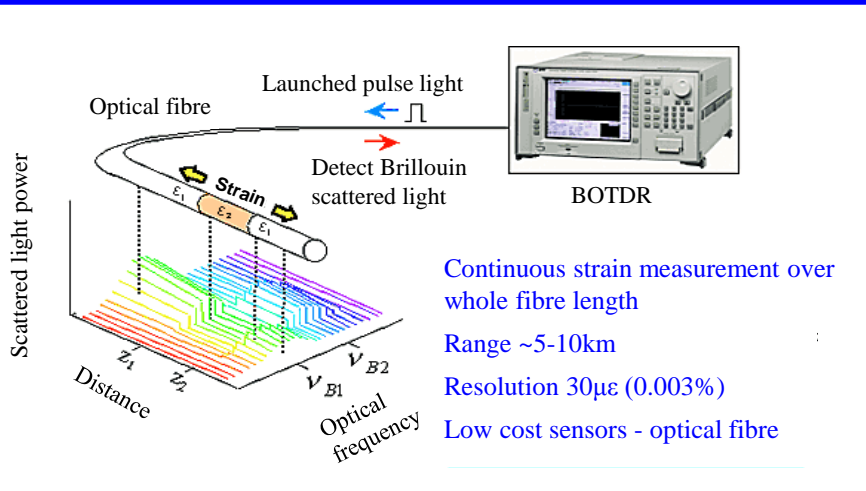
- Atoms vibrate with very small amplitudes
- Vibrations = fluctuation in the refractive index
- Fluctuation = scattering of the travelling light



How can optical fibre cores measure strain?



Brillouin optical time domain reflectometry (BOTDR)



Optical Fibre Distributed Sensing

Optical fibre installation by Cambridge University to monitor and interpret joint movement in London Underground tunnel



Innovative interpretation of pile load test using Osterberg Cell (O-Cell) and fibre optic sensors

© www.loadtest.co.uk

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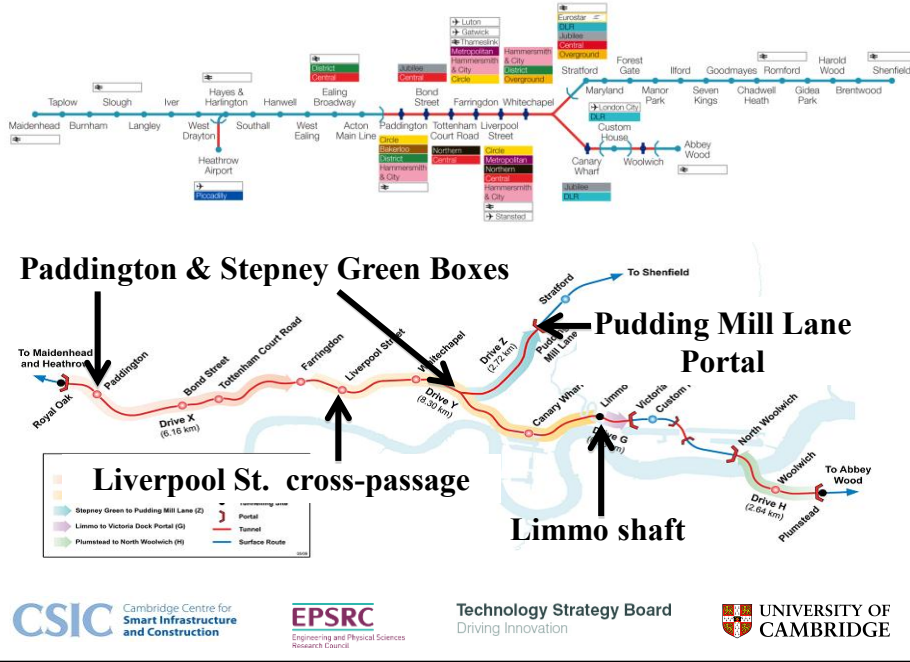
Innovative application of fibre optic sensing for pile testing for Francis Crick Institute, London

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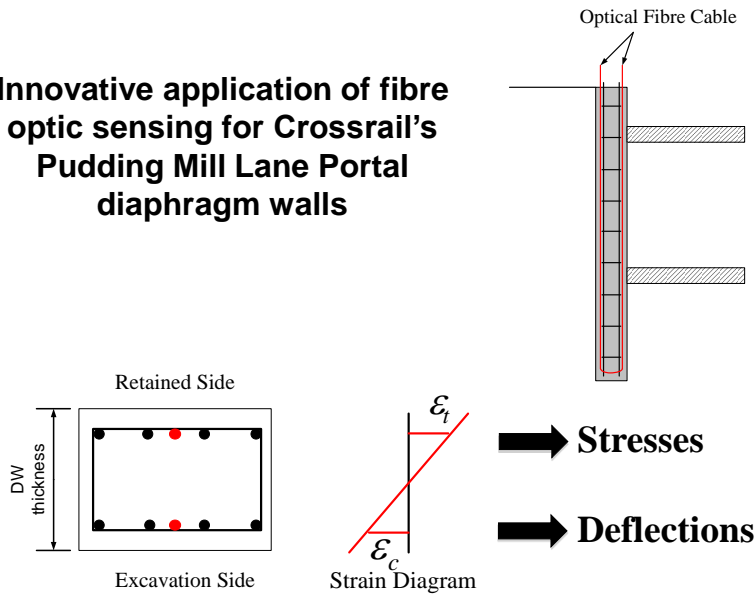
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Innovative applications of fibre optic sensing on Crossrail



Innovative application of fibre optic sensing for Crossrail's Pudding Mill Lane Portal diaphragm walls



Two longitudinal fibre optic loops

Radial fibre optic loops at 6m centres

54m

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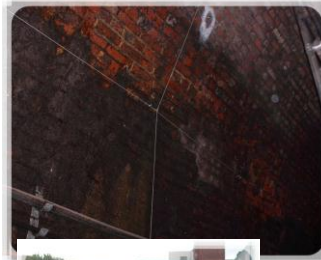
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Recent Examples of Application of Optical Fibre Sensing by Cambridge University

- **Tunnels**
 - Thames Link Tunnel at King's Cross
 - Singapore Metro
 - London Underground Jubilee Line
- **Retaining walls**
 - Chelsea in London
 - UCL Hospital
 - Crossrail & Thames Water shafts (in progress)
- **Piles**
 - Bankside 123, Francis Crick and others
 - Energy piles



Recent Examples of Application of Optical Fibre Sensing by Cambridge University

- **Highways Agency road embankments and cuttings**
 - Shallow surface movements
 - Deep seated ground movements
 - Soil nails
- **Pipelines**
 - Thames Water mains



Industry Partners (total support = £7m)


Construction Sector

Infrastructure Sector

Manufacturing, Electrical & Information Sectors

Demonstration

...in real construction & infrastructure



Demonstrate Practicability

Build Confidence

Early Commercialisation

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Summary

- Emerging technologies already demonstrated
- Latest manufacturing techniques and tools to be applied
- Innovative management from building to city scale
- Smart infrastructure – whole life cycle
- Transform construction and infrastructure industry
- Large market for exploitation – domestic & international



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