

# Thinking tank inspection? Think robots!

A Christchurch-based company is tackling health and safety challenges at a global scale by commercialising wall-climbing robots that can inspect large tanks with no risk for the operator.

The technology was developed at the University of Canterbury and soon found support from local dairy companies. The venture led to the foundation of Invert Robotics, which is now expanding its business offshore and widening its customer base.

## More than just dairy-processing tanks

Although the technology was designed for remotely inspecting large milk storage tanks and other dairy equipment (such as dryer chambers, fluid beds and cheddar towers) it has an abundance of applications. This is thanks to its specific design for non-magnetic surfaces. The technology is now being used to inspect aircraft, other food and beverage assets and large oil and gas containers.

## Getting into tight spots

Any confined space that a person would have to abseil to conduct a physical inspection is an opportunity for the robots. This includes air ducts, wine tanks, grain silos, fuel tanks, oil and gas pipelines, water tanks, and ships' internal structures to manage biofouling risk.

This technology could also be used for collecting real-time physical data, air or organic samples in places that would otherwise be inaccessible.

[www.mpi.govt.nz/science-roadmap](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/science-roadmap)

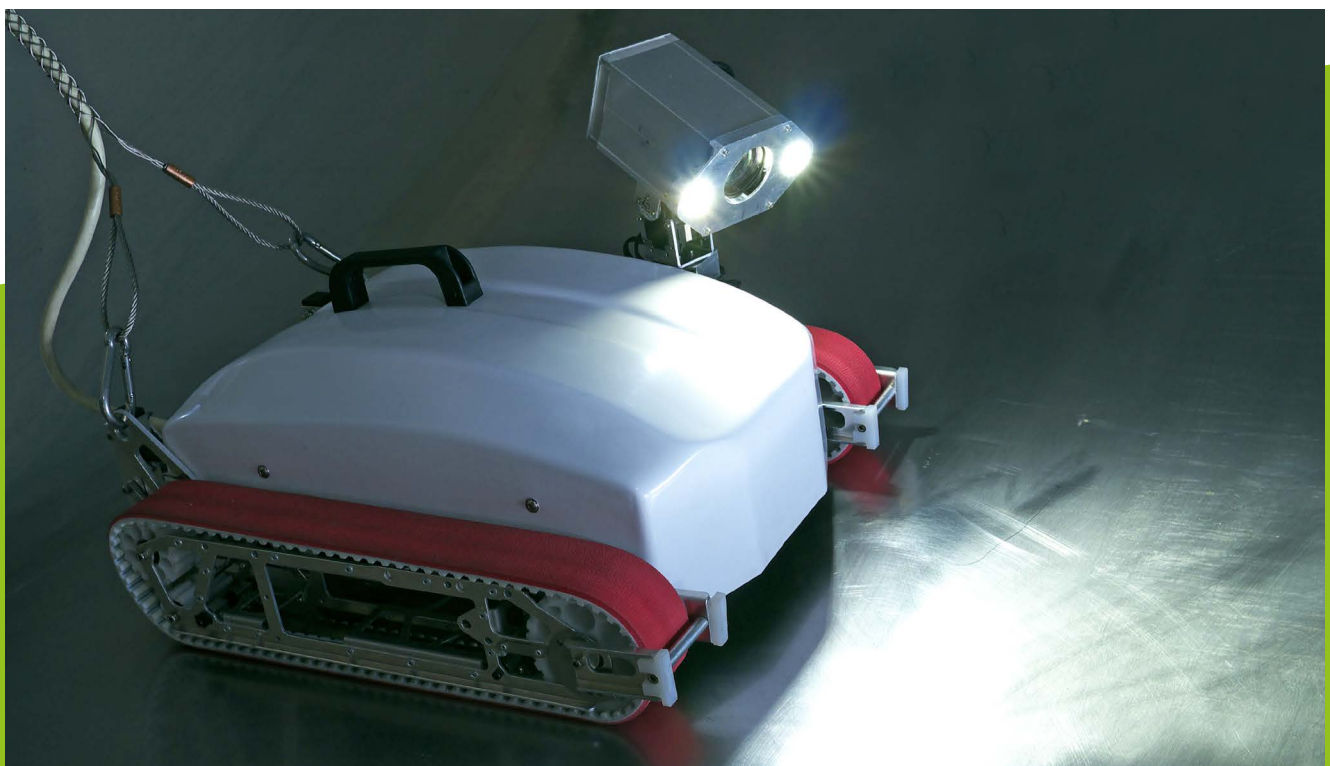


Photo: Invert Robotics.