# RoboK secures £1 million funding for innovative AI platform to enhance port logistics



RoboK, a spinout from the University of Cambridge, has recently announced the acquisition of £1 million in funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) for an innovative project poised to revolutionise real-time monitoring in UK ports and warehouses through advanced artificial intelligence software. This initiative focuses on the development of the PALLETS platform, which aims to seamlessly integrate AI capabilities with existing CCTV systems. The aim is to enhance video monitoring, transitioning it from a passive surveillance tool into an active mechanism for hazard detection and operational efficiency improvement.

The PALLETS project has been launched in response to a concerted effort by UKRI to propel the adoption of trustworthy and responsible AI and machine learning technologies within various industries. This strategic investment not only underscores the growing importance of AI integration within logistics but also signifies a broader commitment to enhancing safety and productivity standards across UK logistics hubs.

The project involves a consortium of significant industry partners, including Astron Fire & Security, Freeport East, Port of Dover, The Finishing Line, the University of Essex, and The Bristol Port Company. Together, these organisations will work collaboratively to tackle pressing challenges in the sector, such as hazard detection and operational bottlenecks, with the project anticipated to conclude by the end of March 2025.

Hao Zheng, the Founder and CEO of RoboK, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, “PALLETS aligns perfectly with RoboK’s vision to create safer and more efficient industrial workplaces. We are honoured to collaborate with key industry partners on a project of such strategic importance to the UK economy.” This comment highlights the company's commitment to enhancing workplace safety and operational efficiency through cutting-edge technology.

Steve Beel, the CEO of Freeport East, also commented on the significance of the project, stating, “Freeport East is delighted to be involved in PALLETS. This demonstrates our role acting as a convenor, making linkages to progress innovative applications and technologies in the ports and logistics sector.” His remarks emphasise the collaborative nature of the initiative and its potential to drive technological advancements within the industry.

Mark Burton, Head of IT at the Port of Dover, provided further insight into the early stages of the project, noting, “We’re really pleased with the progress being made in our work with RoboK on the PALLETS initiative. The early results are very positive, and we’ve gained some helpful insights into how computer vision might support our operational goals moving forward and also sparked new ideas about how we can apply this technology across different areas of our business.” This statement underscores the positive impact the early outcomes of the PALLETS platform have had on operational strategy.

The advancements in AI automation, as evidenced by the PALLETS initiative, suggest a significant evolution in the way logistics and port operations will function in the near future, integrating smart technology solutions that could reshape industry practices and enhance overall efficiency.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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