

# Vibration energy harvesting From lab to field

Energy Harvesting 2017  
5<sup>th</sup> April, Manchester



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Cambridge CB4 2HY  
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# About us

- Cambridge, UK
- USD\$1M/£700k seed investment  
June 2016
- 3 patents
- Extensive publications in leading journals such as *Nature: Scientific Reports* (July 2016)



Dr Antony Rix, **CEO & Co-Founder**

20 years' device & software experience  
PhD applying machine learning to telecoms  
Co-Chair, CW Connected Devices SIG  
Co-founder, Psytechnics



Paul Egan, **VP Business Development**

Over 30 years in the wireless tech industry.  
Co-founder, Neul, Pioneer of LPWAN Technology, acquired by Huawei in 2014. Part of the founding teams of IoTUK, CSR, ARM



Richard Green, **Chairman**

Richard is a serial entrepreneur, non-executive director and business mentor. He was co-founder and CEO of Ubisense, the award winning Industrial Internet of Things pioneer.



Dr Ashwin Seshia, **NED & Co-Founder**

Reader, University of Cambridge  
Co-founder, Silicon Microgravity  
Technical lead and MEMS expert



Dr Yu Jia, **Co-founder**

Lecturer, University of Chester  
Inventor of energy harvesting technology



Dr Jize Yan, **Co-founder**

Associate Professor, University of Southampton  
Key contributor to applications development



Prof. Kenichi Soga, **Co-founder**

Chancellor's Professor, University of California, Berkeley  
Expert in structural condition monitoring

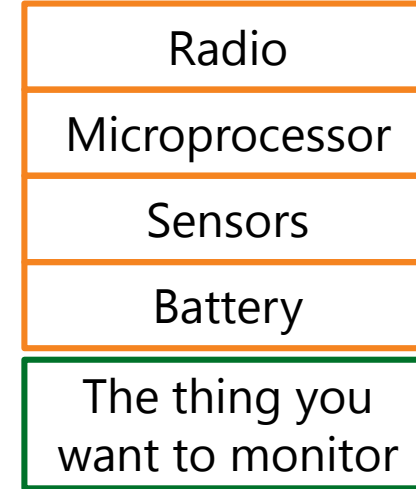
## Investors

**PARKWALK**  
investing in innovation

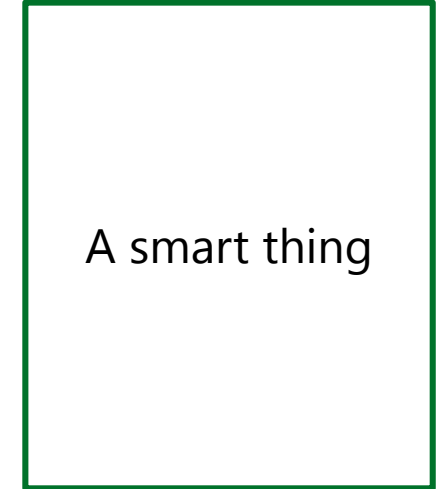




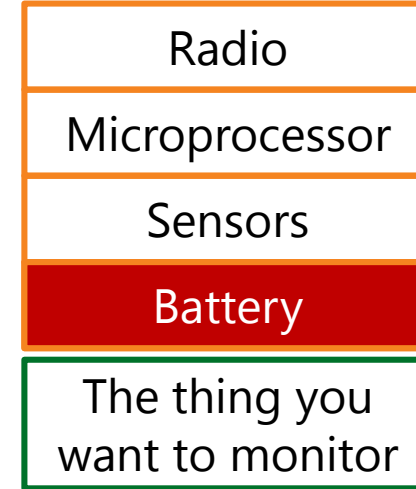
# Sensors can make a thing smart...



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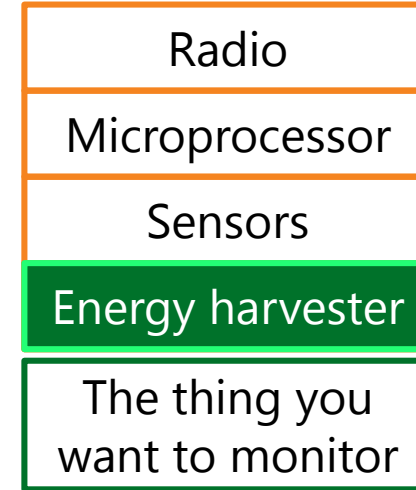
# ... but batteries become the problem



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A thing that  
needs its battery  
replacing every  
few weeks or  
months

# Can energy harvesting solve the battery problem?



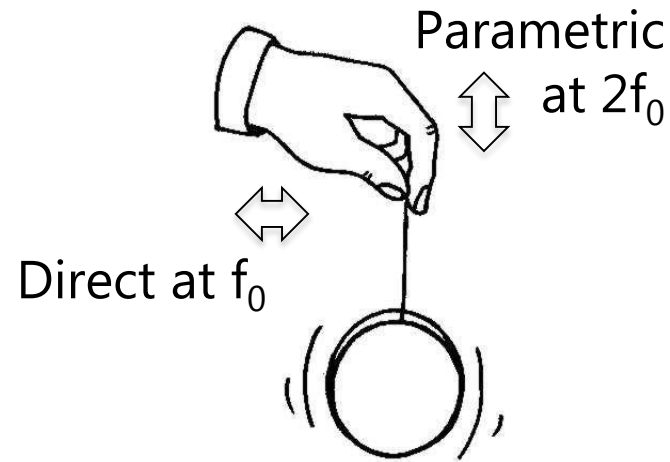
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A smart thing  
powered by its  
environment

# Parametric resonance for vibration energy harvesting

## Conventional direct excitation

- **Parallel** to displacement  $x$
- Direct transfer of energy
- Resonance at  $f_0$
- Resonant build-up limited by linear damping



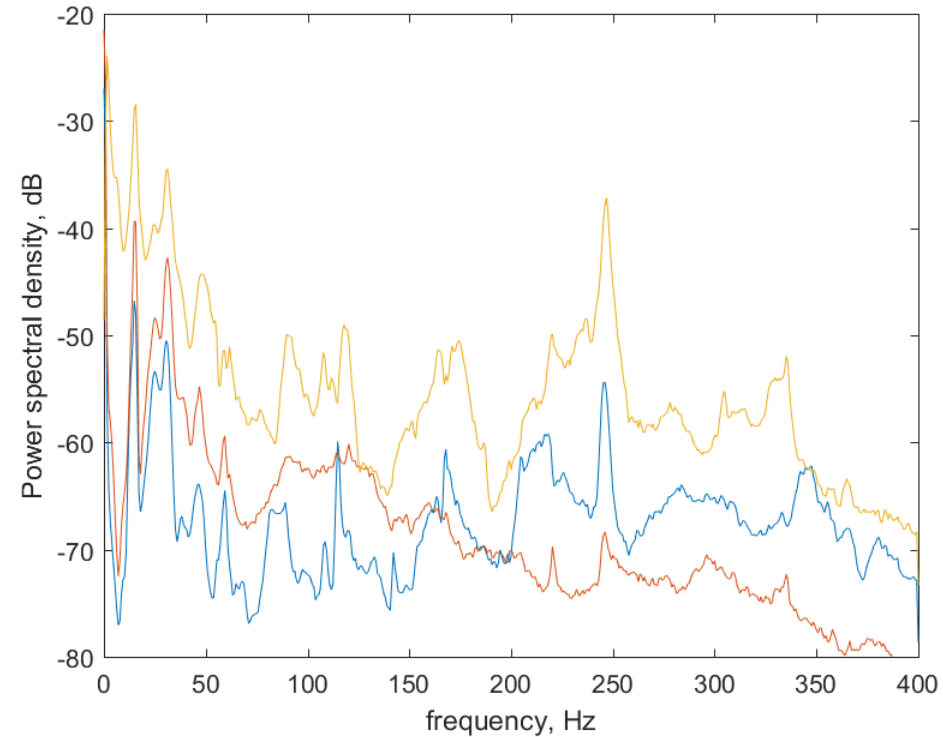
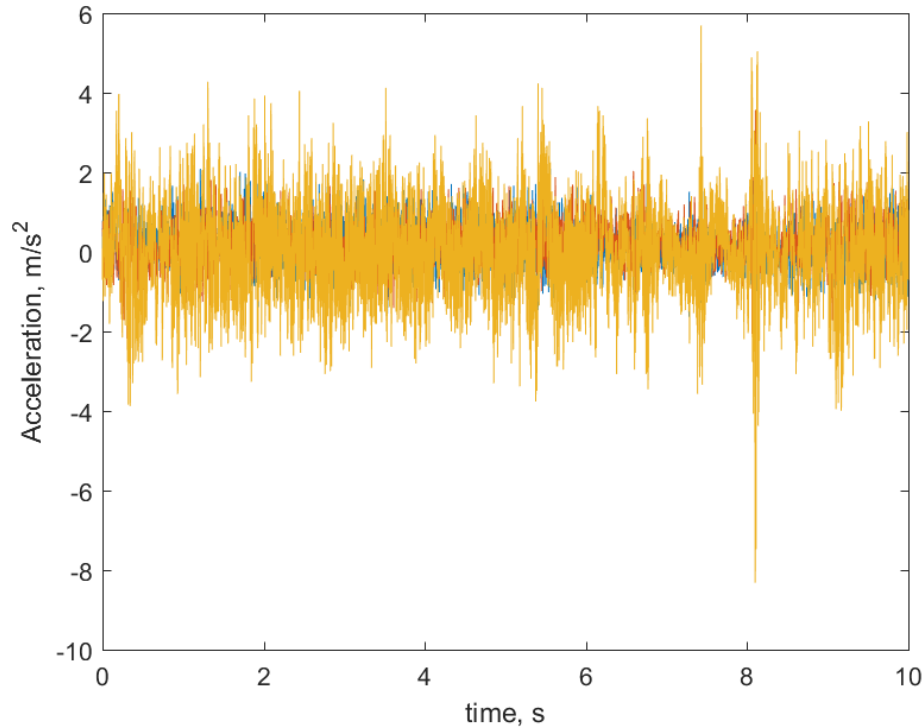
## Parametric excitation

- Usually **perpendicular** to displacement  $x$
- Parameter modulation
- Resonance at  $2f_0/n$
- Resonance build-up **not** limited by linear damping

## Harvesting of excitation to electrical power

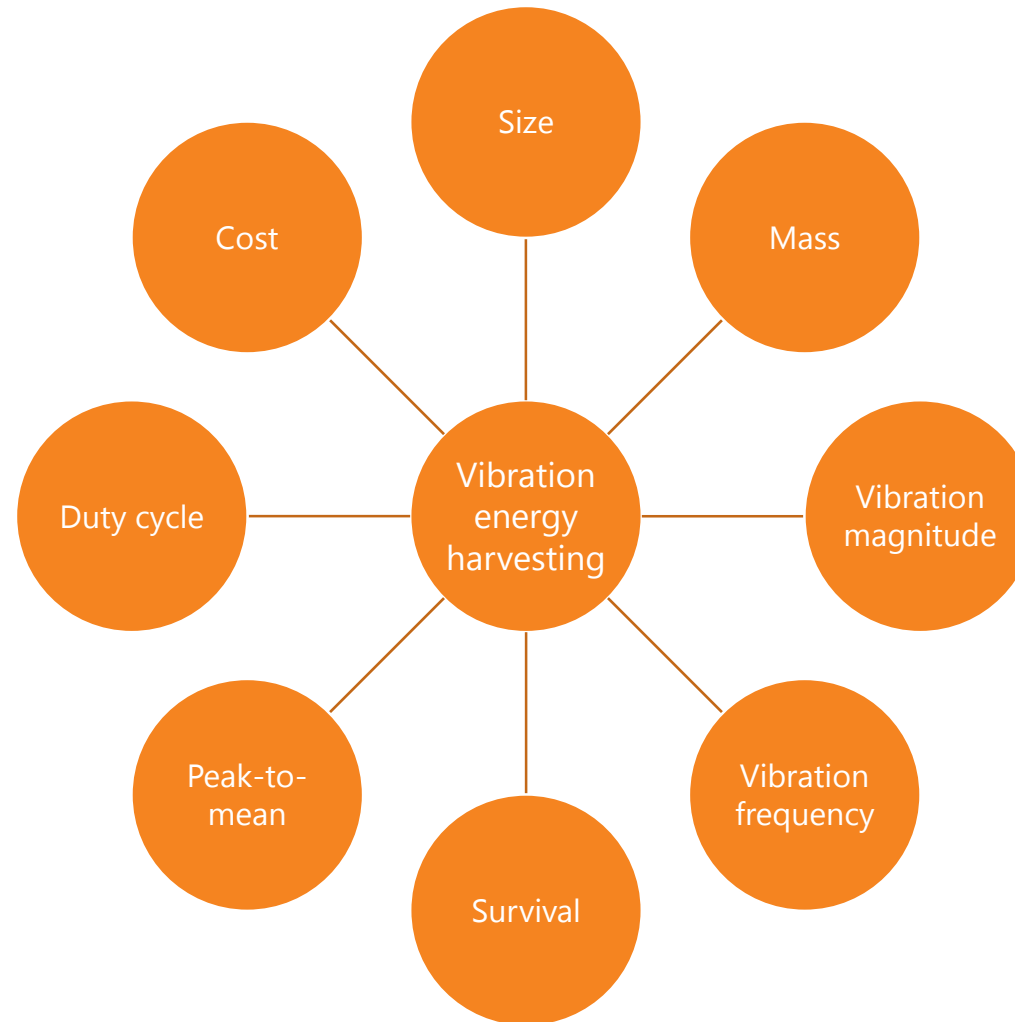
- **Electrodynamic** (magnet/coil) generator in macro devices
- **Electrostatic** and **piezoelectric** generators in MEMS devices

# The secret of vibration energy harvesting



Vibration time-series and spectrum in a vehicle application

# Challenges to the viability of vibration energy harvesting





# Forth Road Bridge case study



- December 2015: the Forth Road Bridge near Edinburgh, UK, closed due to fatigue cracking of a truss
- The bridge was closed to cars for three weeks, and to freight vehicles for three months, for remedial works – *The Scotsman* reported that this closure is estimated to have cost the Scottish economy £50M
- Could a sensor network detect this problem before failure occurs?
- 8power's prototype macro VEH generates interesting amounts of power in this real-world scenario:

Location and orientation of VEH	Active frequency range (Hz)	Raw AC power ( $\mu$ W)	Conditioned DC power ( $\mu$ W)
Cross girder, vertical	10-30	160	32
Top lateral, vertical	10-30	800	174
Top lateral, horizontal	7-26	1050	315

# 8power's approach to systems



Our customers & partners provide things

Radio

Microprocessor

Sensors

Power

The thing you  
want to monitor

Local network

Security, updates

Service creation

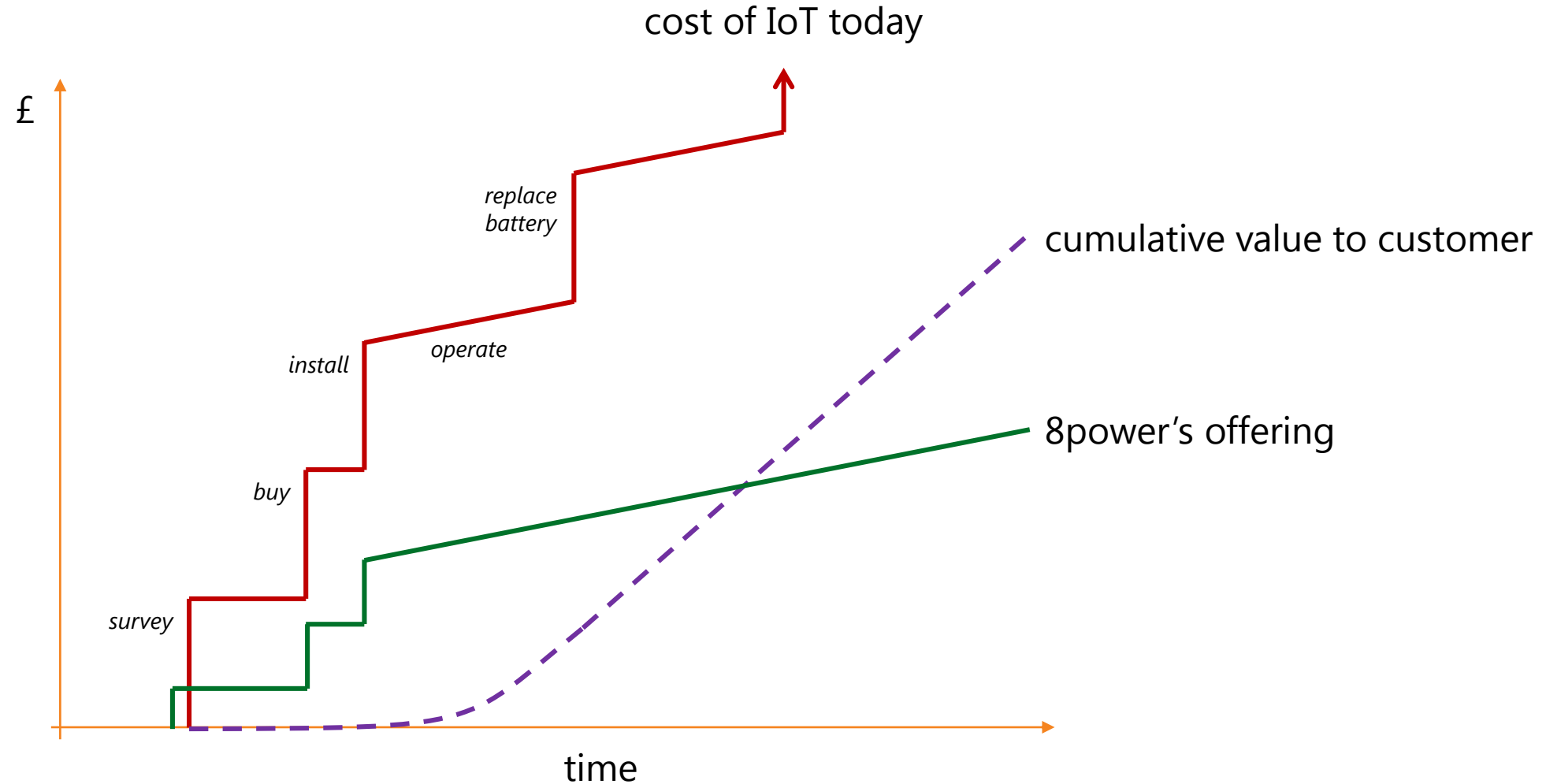
Interoperability

Application  
design, support

Every one of these elements (and several others) is critical to delivering a scalable connected device.

8power solves all of them in one integrated, modular device and service platform.

# Making the business case work





Powering the  
sensor revolution

