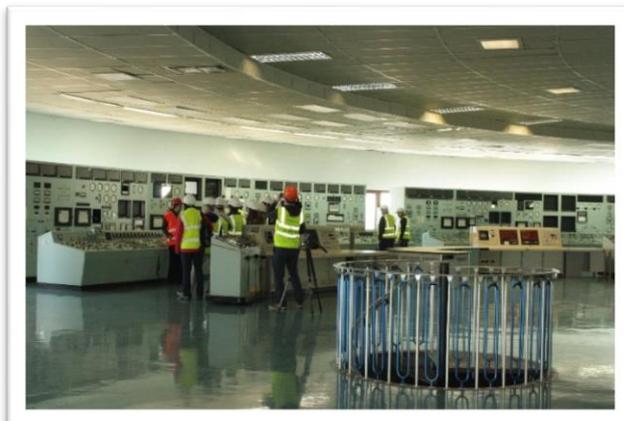


NEW FOREST ACADEMY students film disaster movie

New Forest Academy students have been working with Southampton University's Autonomous Systems research group as part of a short film about how robotics and autonomous systems can help in a disaster response. The project is the University's response to the EPSRC Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) network Grand Challenge 2017. The students were part of scenes filmed at the decommissioned Fawley Power Station, famous as the film set for the 2015 movie 'Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation' and the 2017 Channel 4 programme 'Spies.'

Students particularly enjoyed shooting scenes in the control room.

Professor James Scanlan, who leads the project, was mightily impressed by the professionalism and maturity of the Year 10 cast and said: 'We are delighted that New Forest Academy wanted to take part and grateful to the students for being such an excellent cast. We hope young people will be inspired by what autonomous systems can do when they see our film.' The film crew, from film company, Robin Creative Media, paid tribute to the students also. Julia Waldman said: 'The students were magnificent in their approach; response to direction; patience and good humour. We felt really pleased with the shoot and hope that they also enjoyed the experience.'



Professor Scanlan chose the decommissioned power station after a visit last year, when he was shown around the location and immediately saw its potential. The opportunity to take part in UK Robotics week as part of the EPSRC RAS Grand Challenge came soon after that and by Christmas he had arrived at the decision to make a short film. The students were an essential part of the scenario in the script that was developed. The script



envisages a hypothetical situation – we don't want to give away the plot - but suffice to say that the situation of the students and others who played parts in those scenes meant that a range of sensors and robots had to be deployed. When people watch this film, they will see a demonstration of the use of robotics in civil applications such as search and rescue, disaster recovery and dealing with an extreme pollution/contamination event. This aim is to stimulate interest and inspire young people to be interested in the science and to encourage a perception generally of the how robotics can benefit society to counter the more common perception of such systems as being primarily defence related or commercial. The researchers who have developed the robots also appear in the film and all those who took part will be

invited to the film première which will be held at the University of Southampton in June alongside an exhibition of some of the robots in the film. Visit the group's website for more information about their work <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/autonomous-systems/>