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RUBBER ROBOT CAN DETECT LEAKS IN PIPES

 MANUFACTURING

A new robot can travel through pipes to identify leaks and help reduce water waste.

We have seen a trend in robots intended to make our everyday lives easier and more efficient. For example, this [robotic arm](#) which makes and serves customers' drinks. In addition to, on an industry level, a [wall-climbing robot](#) to speed up health and safety checks. This robot uses lots of sensors to ascertain safety levels. Similarly, the recent development of a robot named Lighthouse, seeks to prevent pipes bursting by identifying initial leaks.

The robot was designed by [WatchTower Robotics](#) and is small and soft. The body is made from rubber and is shaped like a badminton shuttlecock. The flexible, supple robot travels through pipes to identify any leaks. The device has a skirt of sensors which can identify any suction force caused by a leak in the pipe. The robot links to a cloud-based analytics platform where it shares any data collected concerning water leaks. This then allows users to see a map of the pipe leaks, in addition to information about their size and likelihood of leading to a burst pipe. The robot is capable of finding a leak that is just four millimetres long, making it very effective. The robot has won several awards including the 2018 Environmental Media Association Future Innovator Award.

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