

Multiphysics-Driven Arc-Fault Detection for Shipboard Electrical Systems via Sensor Fusion and Machine Learning

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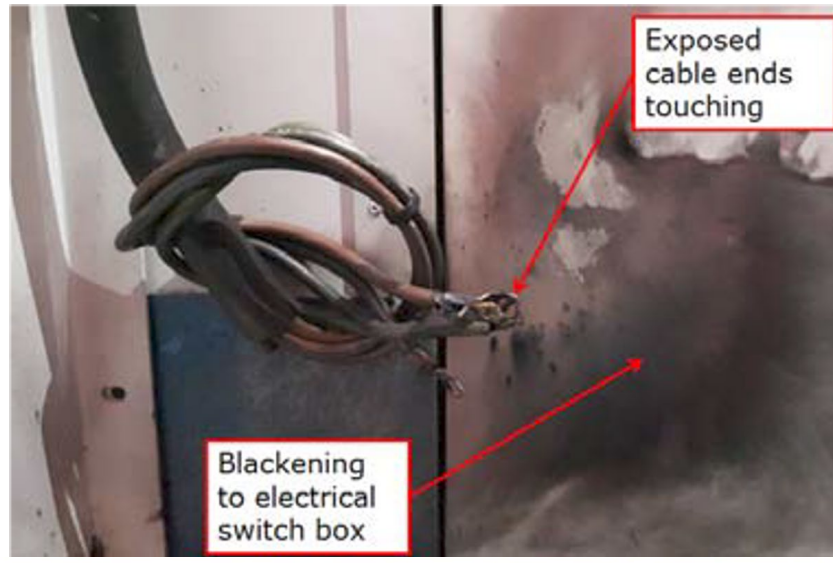
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1. Introduction - Importance of Arc-Fault Detection in Naval Ships

- **Safety of Personnel**
- **Equipment Protection**
- **Operational Reliability**
- **Fire Prevention**
- **Compliance with Safety Standards**



The cabin's internal main electrical power cable arced, tripping the vessel's power circuit breaker.
[Image from the Internet]



Internal core temperature may reach 20,000 °C, posing a serious threat to personnel and the switchgear assembly
[Image from the ABB Review]

2. Challenges with Current Arc-Fault Detection Systems

- High False Alarm Rates
- Obsolescence
- Compatibility with Modern Equipment



Communication Capability of Modern Equipment [Image from the Internet]

Rule-Based Approach with Fixed Threshold

Rule a.1

For any single $i \in \{1, 3\}$ and for $\forall X_i \subseteq X$

IF $PI(\rho_{X_i}(k)) > PI^{\max}(\rho_{X_i}(k))$ for $1 \leq k \leq nk_i$

THEN Schedule appropriate control for $X_i(\rho)$

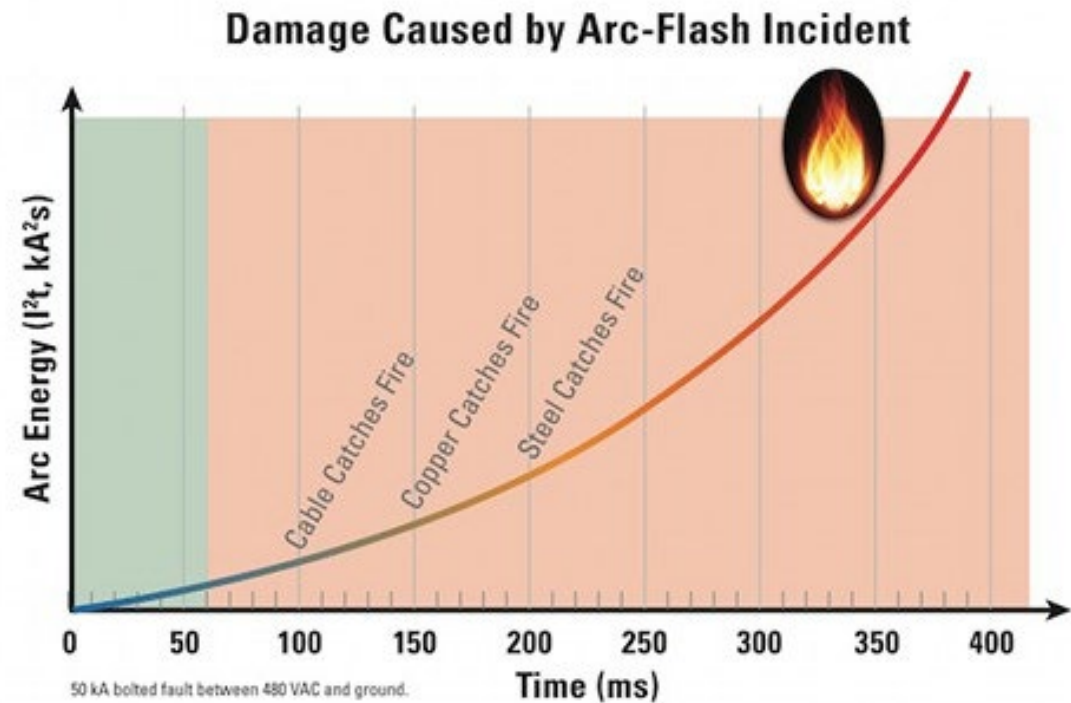
Parameter ρ_{X_i} associated with state X_i is the dominant violator contributing to the arc fault.



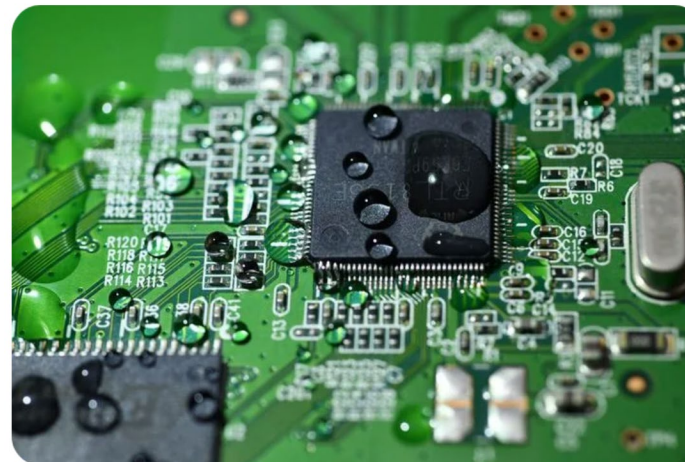
End-of-Life Products [Image from the Internet]

3. Objectives of the Proposal

- To reduce False Alarm Rate to less than 1%
- To enhance Detection Speed to less than 2.5 milliseconds
- To adapt to harsh and variable conditions of Shipboard Environments
- To comply with stringent naval safety standards and regulations.



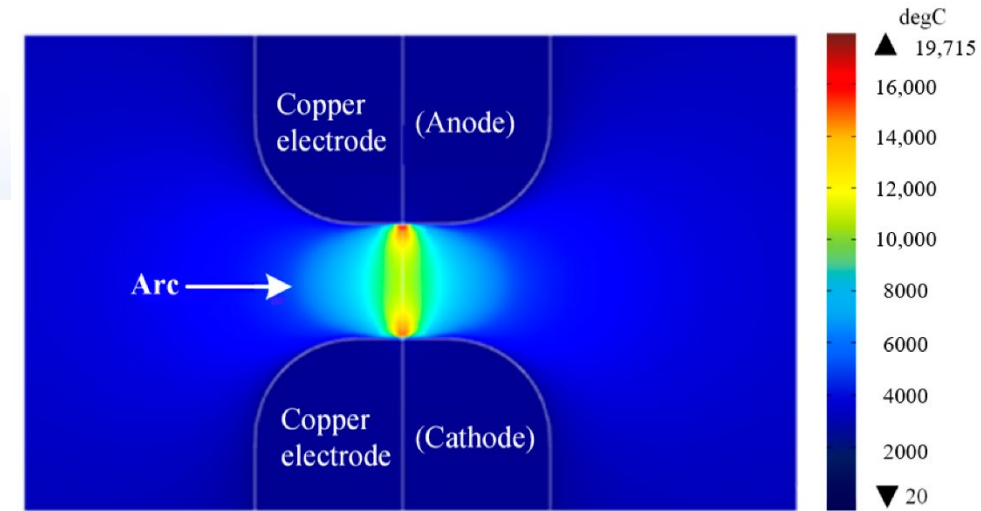
White, James, 2010. Exploding the Myths about Arc Flash, Plant Engineering, April 8, 2010



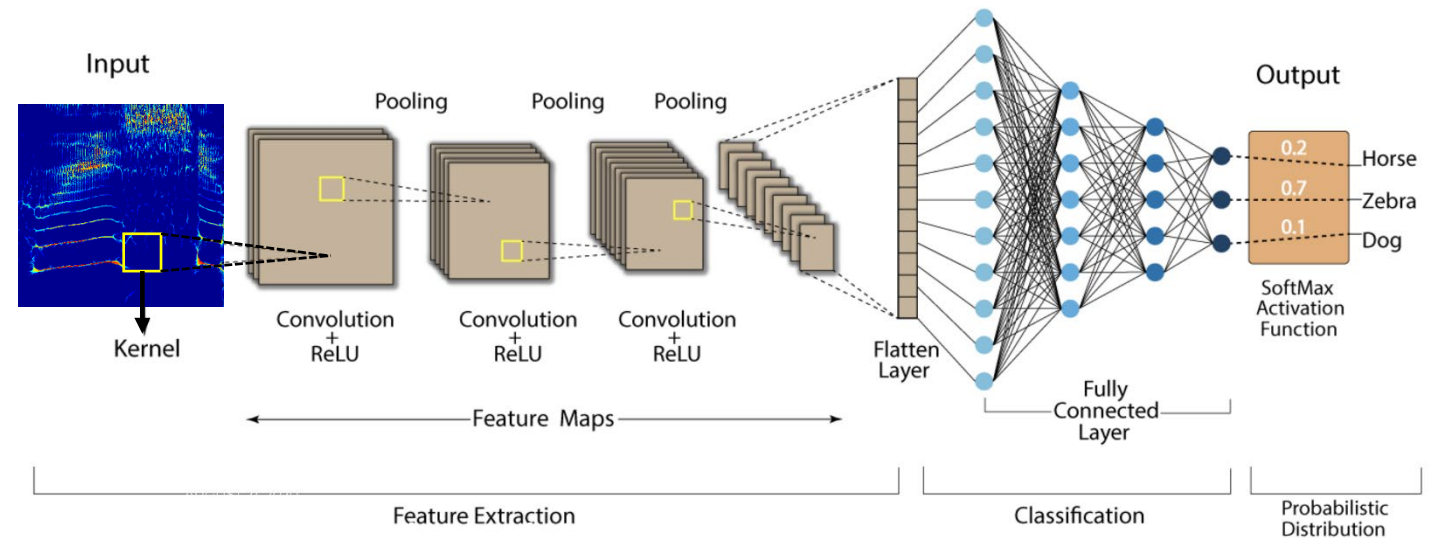
Marine PCB applications face the unique challenges of saltwater environments, temperature extremes, and constant vibration exposure.

4. Proposed Solution

- **Accuracy:** multiphysics approach by sensor fusion: light, current, and acoustic sensors
- **Speed, Compatibility and Environmental Hardening :** adopt ABB REX640 protective relay for high-speed reliable fault detection with up-to-code communication.
- **Reliability:** taking machine learning and statistical approaches to develop algorithms to reduce false alarm due to thresholding issue and improve detection reliability.
- **Compliance:** Lab and On-Site Testings with Shipyard and Navy partners



Convolution Neural Network (CNN)



Acoustic sensor



Current sensor



Optical sensor

5. Technology Description:

ABB REX640 Arc Fault Detection Device:

- **Advanced Sensor Fusion:** Combines light (loop and lens) and current sensors for precise arc fault detection.
- **Sensor Integration:** Flexible input for signals from other sensors and programmable algorithms for sensor fusion.
- **Supervised Sensors:** self-testing feature
- **High-Speed Detection:** less than 2.5 milliseconds.
- **Flexible Configuration:** Modular design
- **Integrated Communication:** Supports various communication protocols (e.g. DNP3) for seamless integration with shipboard systems.
- **Compatibility and Compliance:**
 - IEC 61850: Communication networks and systems for power utility automation.
 - IEC 60255: Measuring relays and protection equipment.
 - IEC 61000: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) standards.
 - IEC 60947: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear.
 - IEC 60068: Environmental testing
- **Marine Certifications:** Certified by DNV GL and ABS for harsh shipboard environments



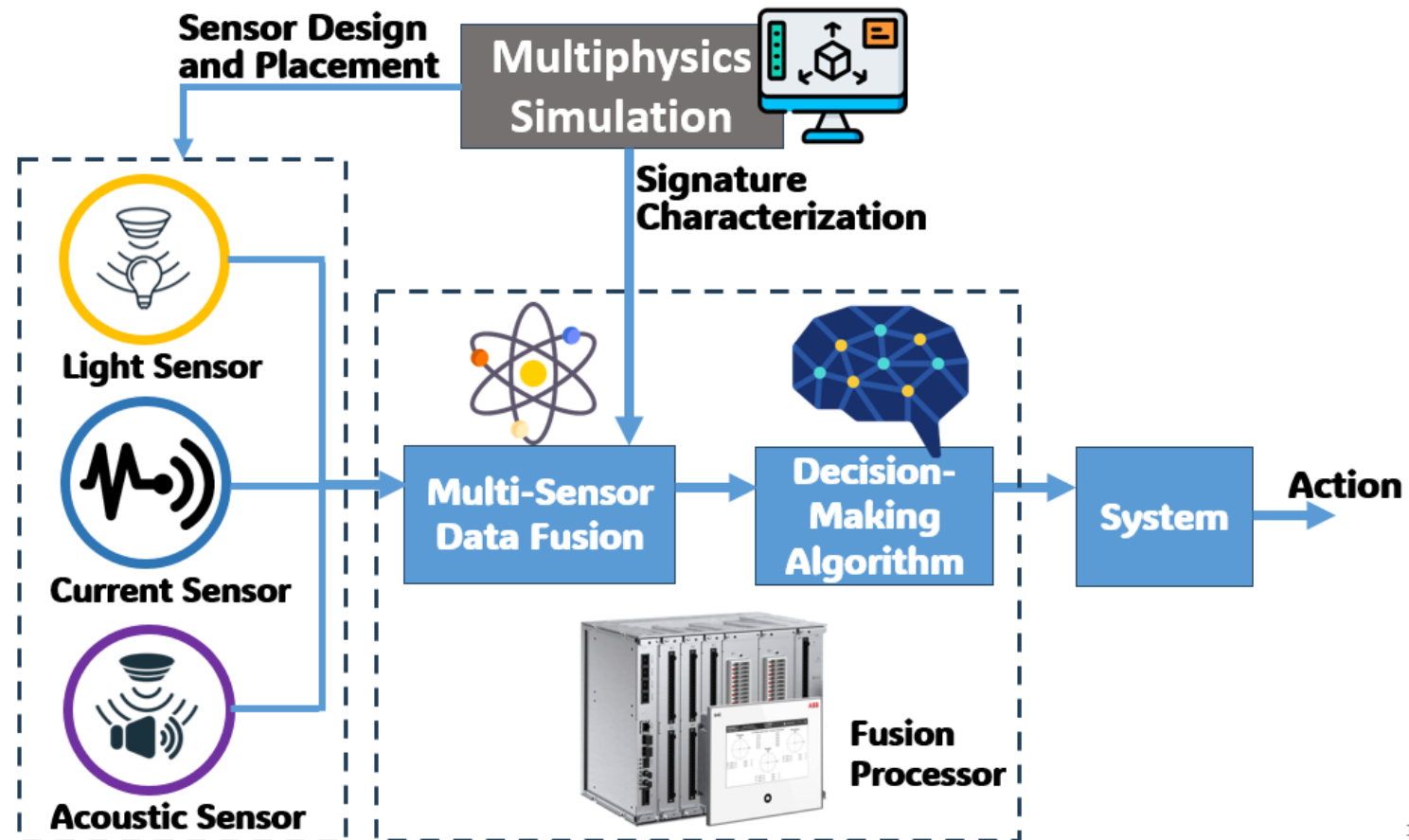
6. Multiphysics Approach with Sensor Fusion and Machine Learning

Why Multiphysics?

- Arc fault is not just an electrical phenomenon — it involves tightly coupled electrical, optical, and acoustic effects.

Mechanism

- Each type of sensor has its strengths and weaknesses. By combining data from all three, the system can correlate different types of signals and cross-verify the presence of an arc fault.
- Fusion processor: synchronize, pre-process and combine sensor data. Machine learning takes the combined feature set and learn complex, non-linear relationships that are not obvious from any single sensor



Benefits of Sensor Fusion

- **Enhanced Accuracy:** Reduces false positive / false negative
- **Robust Detection:** Improves reliability in detecting arc faults under various conditions.
- **Adaptability:** Can incorporate additional sensor inputs (e.g. magnetic sensors).
- **Data Analytics:** Customize data analytic algorithms

7. Methodology and Collaboration

Tasks

Task 1 – Requirements Definition, System Architecture, and Multiphysics Modeling



Task 2 – Prototype Development (Sensors, Algorithms, and Data Acquisition)



Task 3 – Integration with Protective Relay and Laboratory Testing

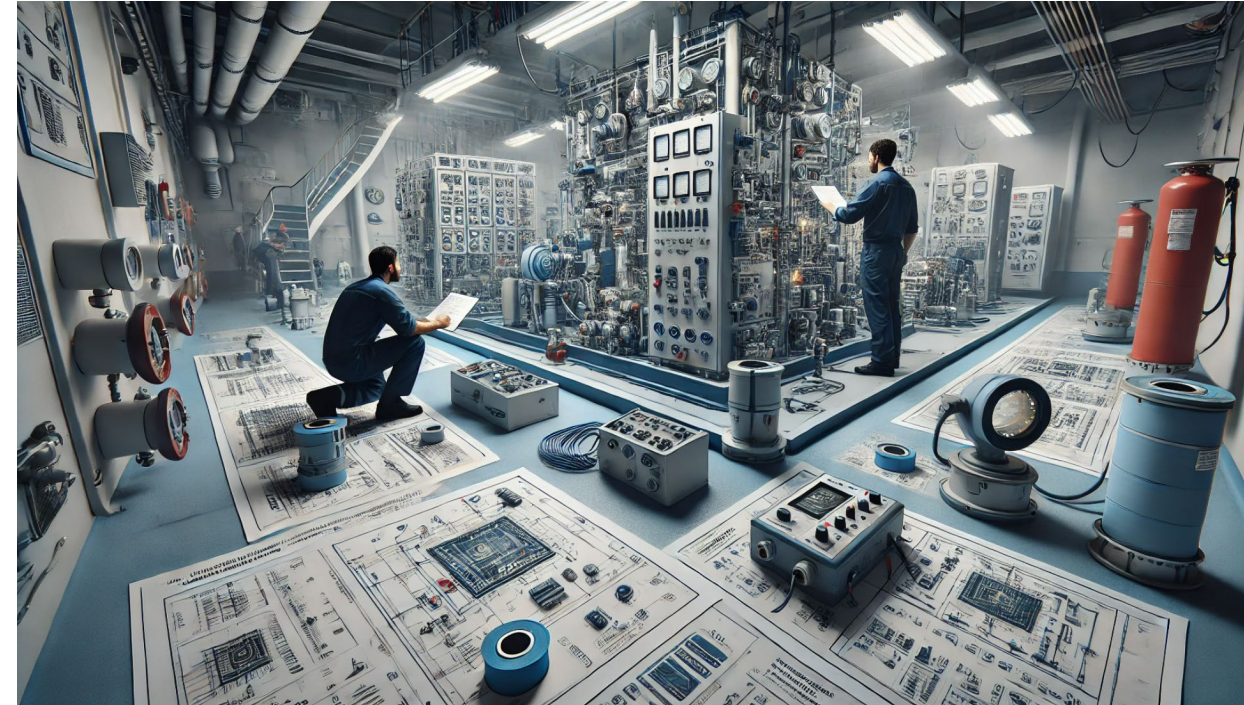


Task 4 – Analysis, Refinement, and Final Documentation

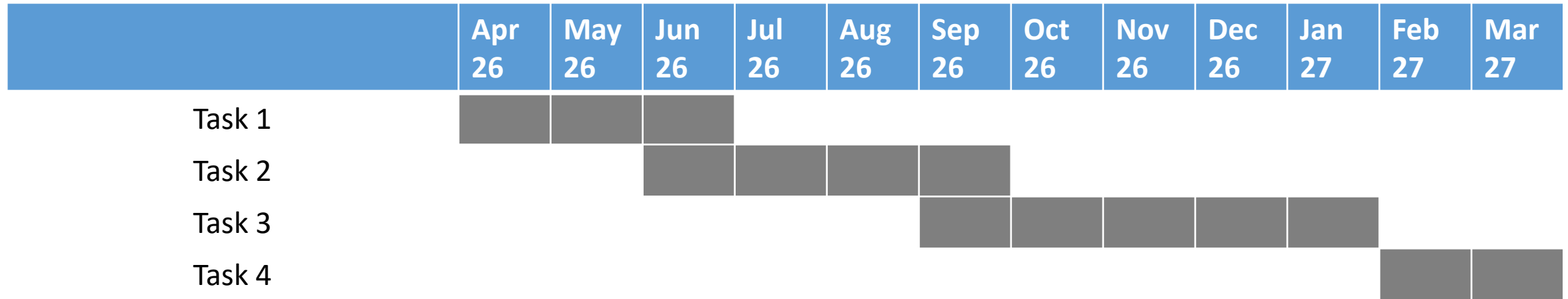


8. Deliverables

1. Kick-Off Meeting
2. Project Plan & Schedule
3. Project Status Report 1: Prototype Requirements and Architecture (3 months)
4. Project Status Report 2 (6 months)
5. Project Status Report 3 (9 months)
6. Prototype Demonstration / Webinar Summary
7. Final Report with Recommendations



9. Project Timeline and Finance



- **Program Funds: \$200,000**
- **Cost Share: NIL**

10. Conclusion

•Summary of Proposal:

- Multiphysics Simulation for Sensor System Design
- Advanced Sensor Fusion and Machine Learning for Arc Fault Detection
- Leverage ABB-supported REX640 (or equivalent) with up-to-code communication capabilities, proven adaptability to harsh marine environments, and compliance with marine standards

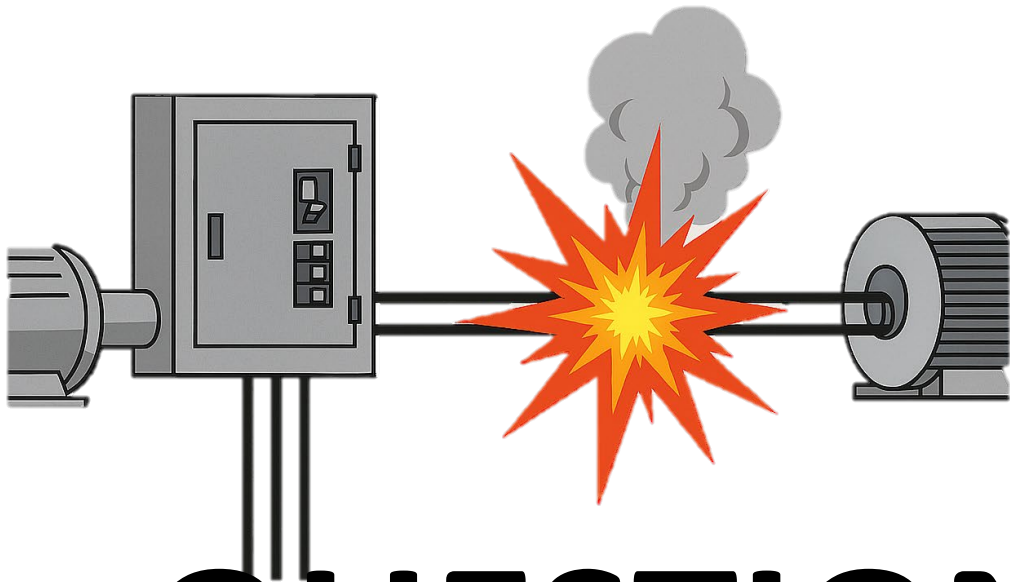
•Key Benefits:

- Faster and More Reliable Detection
- Updated and Supported Technology
- Compatibility with Modern Shipboard Equipment
- Enhanced Safety
- Cost Savings
- Operational Efficiency

•Future Steps:

- We are collaborating with the Government – Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Philadelphia Division, the Shipyards – Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) and General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (GDBIW), and the Industry – ABB.





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QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK?

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