



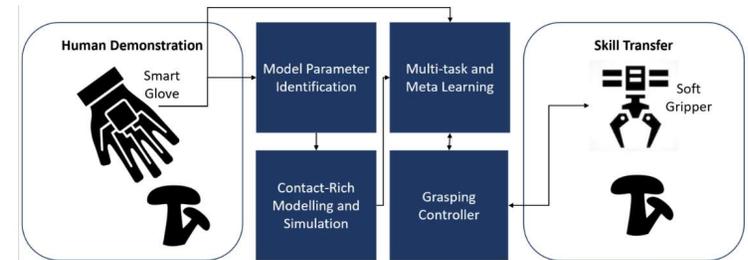
Teagasc Advisory - Mushroom E-Bulletin 1, Jan 2021

SoftGrip

Teagasc are pleased to announce that a three-year EU project entitled **'SoftGrip - A functionalised soft robotic gripper for harvesting delicate produce powered by imitation learning-based control'** has been funded and started on January 1st 2021. The project is focusing on mushrooms to develop and perfect the performance of a soft robotic gripper to be used in the robotic harvesting of soft delicate produce. Teagasc's role in the project is to ensure that the user-needs and functional requirements of a robotic gripper are understood and incorporated into the design, manufacture and performance of the gripper. The partners include the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Italy, the Institute of Communication and Computer Systems in Greece, the University of Essex in United Kingdom, TWI Hellas in Greece, Teagasc in Ireland and Mitsui Chemicals Europe GMBH in Germany. It is intended to develop novel 'intelligent' materials that are food-safe, self-repairable and recyclable so that they are more environmentally sustainable. The gripper will also 'learn' how to harvest mushrooms by 'imitation' of the harvesting process performed by actual

harvesters. Once travelling restrictions around COVID are relaxed sufficiently, the SoftGrip team will be on site at the Teagasc Mushroom unit, where they will develop the soft gripper functionality in conjunction with actual mushroom crops and eventually demonstrate its performance once it has been refined and perfected. Exciting times ahead!

Teagasc will be recruiting a Technologist to work on the project in the next month or two so we will be looking to hire an Agricultural Science/Engineering graduate with an interest in mushrooms and robotics. If you know of anyone who would be interested they should keep an eye on the Teagasc website or contact Donal Gernon or Helen Grogan who can forward details when available.



SoftGrip: EU H2020 Grant agreement no.: 101017054



Contact

Please get in touch if you would like further information, if you have any issues you would like to discuss or topics you would like to hear more about.
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