



Photos of the Day: Floating Robots Track Water Flow With Smartphones

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Alexandre Bayen, UC Berkeley associate professor in the College of Engineering, holds a floating robot. Fleets of robots can be used to advance our understanding of water conditions. (Credit: Roy Kaltschmidt, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory)

Read: [Floating Robots Use GPS-Enabled Smartphones to Track Water Flow](#)

A fleet of 100 floating robots took a trip down the Sacramento River on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 in a field test organized by engineers at the University of California, Berkeley.



The smartphone-equipped floating robots demonstrated the next generation of water monitoring technology, promising to transform the way government agencies monitor one of the state's most precious resources.

The floating robots on the left are passive, going where the currents take them. The devices on the right are autonomous and have propellers that help them maneuver away from obstacles in the water. (Credit: Jonathan Beard)



Andrew Tinka tosses a floating robot into the Sacramento River. (Credit: Jerome Thai)

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