



SAFENOISE

ELECTROCAP PITCH DECK

Website: Team 8

ic/

TÉCNICO LISBOA







PROBLEM DEFINITION

- → Workers exposed to environments with intense but non-permanent noise often neglect the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- → Occupational Hearing Loss is one of the most common work-related illnesses, often going unnoticed until irreversible damage occurs.
- → Workplace safety personnel lack adequate tools to measure and analyze the severity of this issue.

SOLUTION BENEFICIARIES

01 Workers and Employers

Workers become aware of noise levels through real-time alerts, reducing the risk of hearing loss caused by improper PPE usage.

02 Ineffective Digital Presence

Employers benefit by minimizing workplace injuries and avoiding legal responsibilities.

03 Occupational health care

Occupational health care can use this data to improving support.



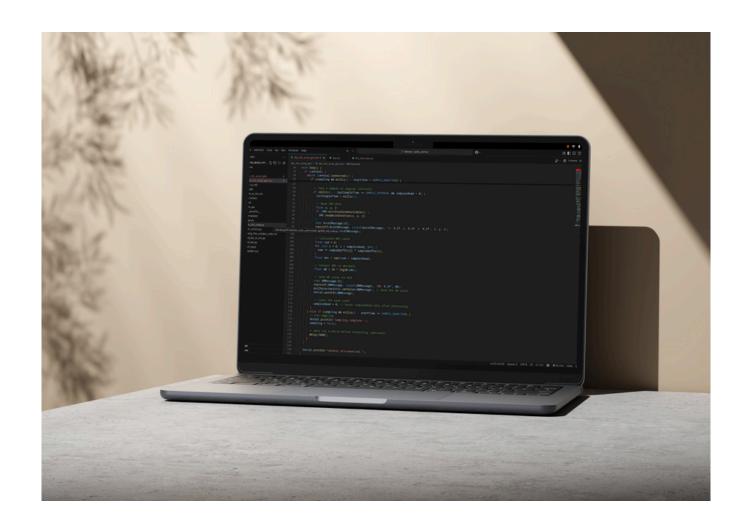
04 Technicians of Safety and Health

Technicians of Safety and Health at Work can get more data to support improvements in workplace and raise awareness to the importance of the use of PPE.



INTERVIEW FRAMEWORK

INTERVIEWS



01

Occupational Noise Measurement Specialist

Joao S. Tomás D.

- No existing devices integrate measurement, alerts, and PPE verification.
- Both portable and static devices are useful depending on the context.
- Must comply with standards like Decree-Law No. 182/2006 and NP EN ISO 9612:2011.



QSE Manager

Joao S. Tomás D.

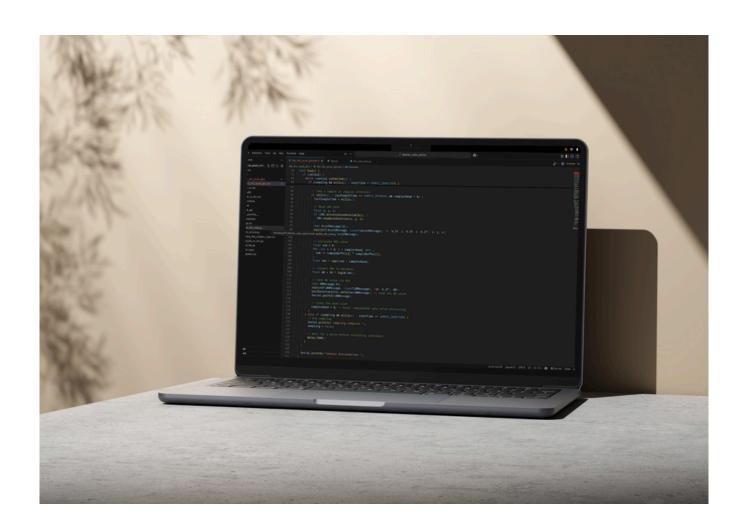
- Portable devices suit dynamic environments; static devices fit controlled spaces.
- Solution should benefit workers and safety professionals.





INTERVIEWS







QSE Director in Construction



Joao S. Tomás D.

- PPE negligence is common due to cultural factors.
- Portable devices are better for dynamic environments.



QSE Manager

Joao S. Tomás D.

- Workers often neglect PPE despite knowing risks.
- Solution must be low-cost and protect both workers and companies.



QESH Director in Industrial Environments

Joao S. Tomás D.

- Adaptability to different environments is crucial.
- Portable devices are versatile; static devices suit fixed areas.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INTERVIEWS



01

Problem confirmed:

- Negligence in using EPI in noisy environments is a real issue, especially in sectors like construction and industry.
- There are some gaps/failures in the products already available on the market.

02

Proposed solutions:

- Portable devices are preferred for dynamic environments.
- Static devices are suitable for controlled environments.

03

Priority features:

- Real-time alerts.
- Verification of correct EPI usage.
- Daily reports for monitoring and awareness.
- Affordable cost and ease of use.

04

Standards and legislation:

• The solution must comply with applicable standards and legislation, such as Decree-Law No. 182/2006 and the NP EN ISO 9612:2011 and EN 458:2016 standards.

TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION

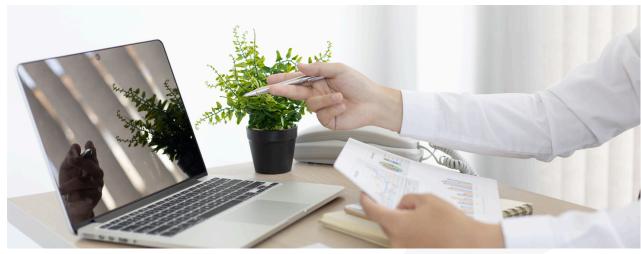
A system of sensors integrated into the earmuff that detects whether the worker is using the PPE correctly, along with another device that communicates with it and measures the noise level the worker is exposed to, alerting them when necessary.





SOLUTION REQUIREMENTS





01 Compliance with Legal Standards

Accuracy in Noise Level Detection: Spectral Analysis in 1/1 Octave bands from 63 Hz to 8000 Hz.

02 User Alerts & Awareness

Ensuring that workers receive real-time alerts and respond appropriately to hazardous noise levels.

- Daily reports

 Implement a formal report or a visual scoreboard system.
- Monitoring Correct Use of PPE

 Verifying whether employees are properly using earmuffs.
- **O5** Scalability
 Scalability to accommodate future expansions.

TESTING AND VALIDATION METRICS



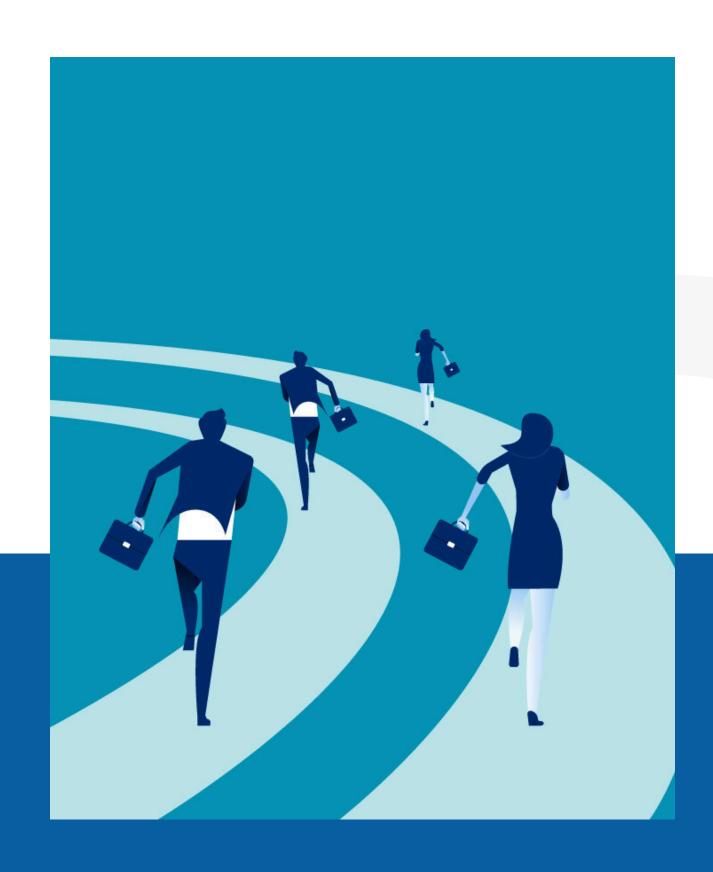


- Proof of Concept
 - Conduct user acceptance testing to ensure the system solves the problem.
- PPE Usage Monitoring

 Detection accuracy, false positive/negative rates.
- Noise Level Accuracy
 Precision of noise measurements, frequency response, and real-time processing.
- Battery Life Assessment

 Continuous operation tests to confirm battery life under work shift.
- BLE Connection Stability

 Ensure consistent and stable Bluetooth communication between components during operation.



COMPETITORS AND PREVIOUS WORK

COMPETITORS

- → Sound Level Meters for measurements on fixed machines.
- → Dosimeters, developed for dynamic exposure profiles and fixed measurements.

PREVIOUS WORK

We are unaware of measurement equipment that fully meet the proposed requirements, but this may be achievable by integrating it into tools we are considering developing. If feasible and available, both proposals could be useful.

COMPETITORS - MARKET OPTIONS

SC202 CLASS 2 SOUND LEVEL METER AND SPECTRAL ANALYZER* (1/1 AND 1/3 OCTAVE BANDS)

Sound level meters (with 1/1 octave spectral analysis from 63Hz to 8000Hz) for measurements on fixed tasks/machines; Examples: (SC250 sound level meter (Class 1) and SC202 (Class 2));

SC250 CLASS 1 SOUND LEVEL METER AND SPECTRAL ANALYZER* (1/1 AND 1/3 OCTAVE BANDS)

Dosimeters (ideally with 1/1 octave spectral analysis from 63Hz to 8000Hz), developed primarily for measurements on workers with more dynamic exposure profiles (mobile, performing a wide variety of tasks), but also adapted for fixed measurements; attached is an example of our doseBadge5 dosimeter.

COMPETITORS - COMPARISON

	SC202	SC250	doseBadge5	Our
Spectral Analysis	1/1 Octave bands: 63 Hz to 8000 Hz			
Alerts	ı	ı	Extra: APP	Yes
Daily Report	1	1	Yes	Yes
PPE Usage	-	-	-	Yes
Price	> 1700 €	> 2300 €	> 2000 €	< 60 €

PARTNERS



OUR CLIENTS COME FROM EVERYWHERE



With more than 12,000 employees and operations in Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United States and Poland, the Saica Group provides sustainable solutions for paper and packaging manufacturing, as well as for waste management and recovery. Saica has been developing sustainable and innovative solutions for more than eight decades.



Saica Pack, Lisboa

The Saica Group provides sustainable solutions for paper and packaging manufacturing, as well as for waste management and recovery

Others

During the semester, we had the opportunity to talk with several companies. Some of them helped us achieve the specifications of our prototype and provided other information.

ADVISORS AND MENTORS

Director of Quality,
Environment, Safety
and Occupational
Health at Saica Group



Scientific Advisor and Mentor Eng. Patrícia Prudêncio Quality, Environment and Safety Technician Saica Group



Scientific Co-advisor and

Mentor

Catarina Teixeira

Co-Director of iStartLab
Innovation Laboratory,
Instituto Superior
Técnico



Coordinator
Prof. Luís Caldas Oliveira

MSc. Student in Electrical & Computer Engineering



Co-coordinator Tiago Lourinho

DIVISION OF LABOR (1)



João Campos	Miguel Simões	Tiago Gonçalves	
Capacitive Sensor	Capacitive Sensor	3D Model*	
Systems connections	BLE: RP2040-ESP32C3	Electronic connections Schematic	
Video*	Electronic connections*	Mid-Term Presentation	
Poster	Video*	Poster*	
		PCB Project**	

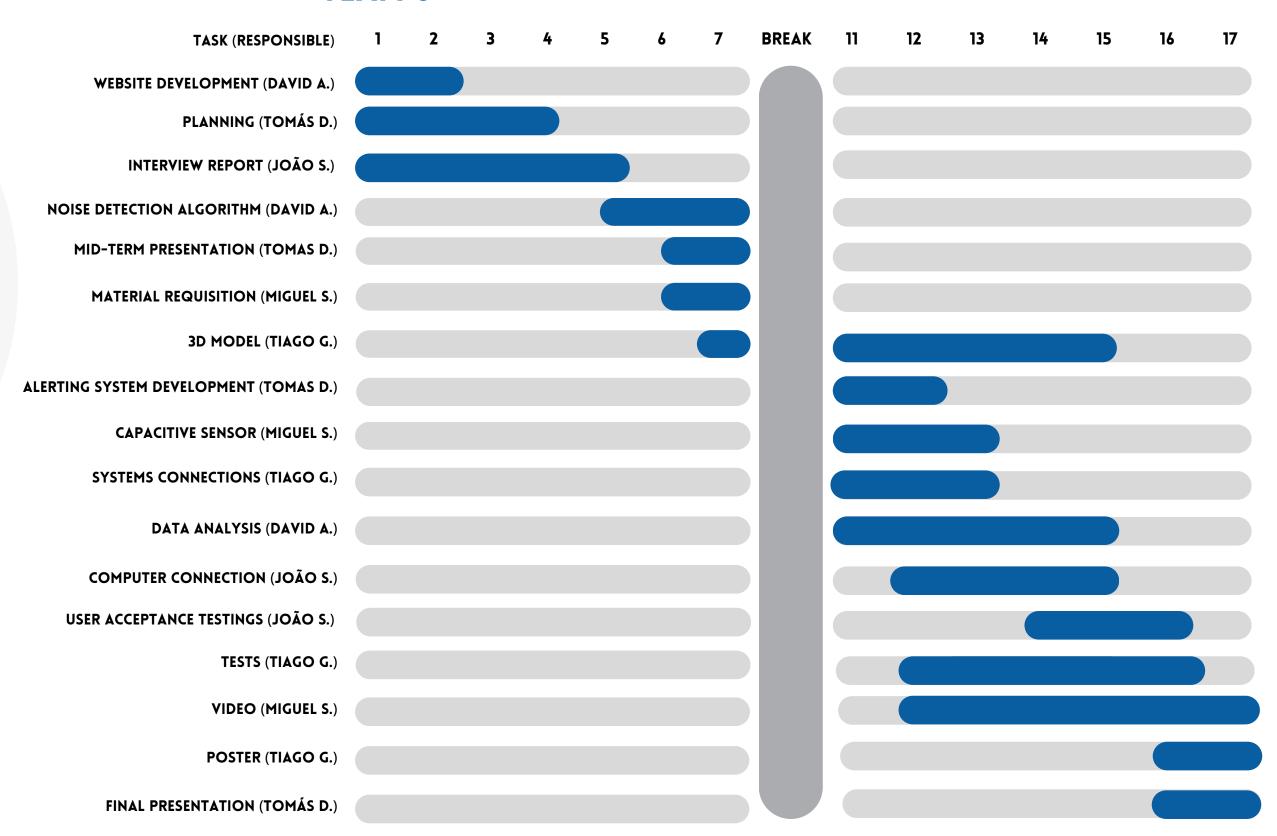
DIVISION OF LABOR (2)



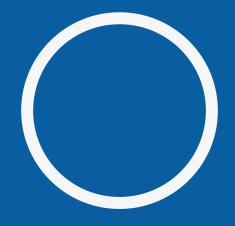
David Antunes	João Silvestre	Tomás Dias	
Noise Detection*	Alerting System	Alerting System*	
Data Analysis: Interface*	Computer Connection*	Computer Connection	
Website Design*	Logistics*	Logistics	
Poster	Mid-Term and Final Presentation	Mid-Term* and Final Presentation*	
Data Analysis: Report	Capacitive Sensor	Poster	

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE TEAM 8











CORRECTED VS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE

Added Task Responsibles

Specified Prototype Tasks:

- Noise detection algorithm
- 3D Model
- Capacitive Sensor
- Systems connections

Also added diferenciated tests:

User acceptance testings

Our partners asked us to change our schedule (anticipate a week)

Part of the team put in extra effort to compensate for the delays on the other side.



OUR SOLUTION





PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

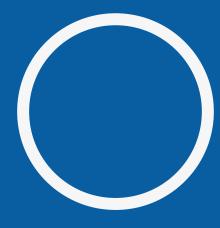
The main device detects noise across various frequencies and calculates the different weightings presented in Portuguese legislation. It then displays the noise level in dB on the screen.

At the same time, the second device, integrated into the PPE, detects whether it is being used correctly or not, sending the information via BLE (Bluetooth) to the other device.

Next, the LED color is updated according to the collected data. The alerts are emitted when noise levels exceed safe limits, indicating the need for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Finally, the information is sent to an external server where the data is processed and presented. These reports are of crucial importance to all beneficiaries.

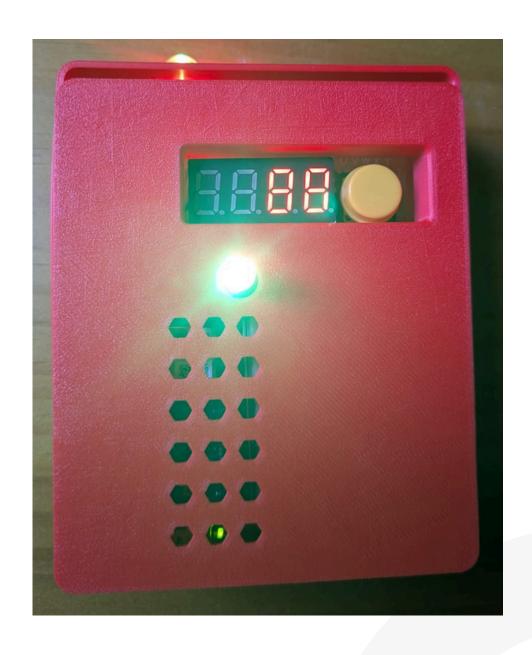








PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS



- 01 Real-time monitoring
 - Continuously tracks noise levels in the workplace.
- O2 Immediate alerts
 Notifies workers when PPE is required due to high noise levels.
- Daily and monthly reports

 Provides detailed data on noise exposure throughout the day.
- Verification of PPE usage

 Ensures workers are correctly using hearing protection equipment.

MATERIALS

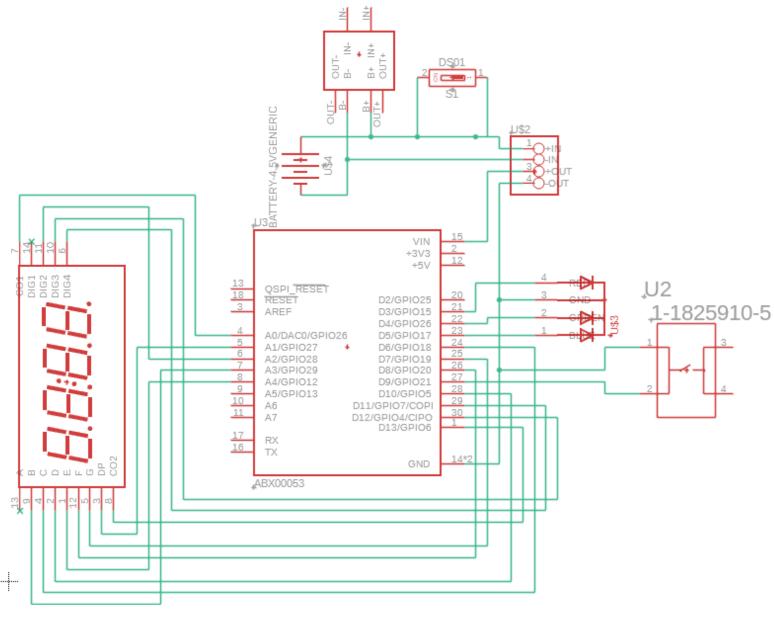




Team 8								
Name:	Link:	Quantity:	Price: €	Description:	Process			
RP2040	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	3	259	Arduino Nano RP2040 Connect with Headers - Arduino	Acquired			
Battery Charger	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	2	11	Li-Ion 1A battery charger module - USB-C input - w/ output	Acquired			
Battery: 2	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	1	956	3.7V 1100mAh Li-Po Battery - 34x50x6mm	Acquired			
Battery: 1	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=7-	1	971	3.7V 720mAh Li-Po Battery - 30x48x5mm	Acquired			
Battery: 3	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	1	625	Battery for Bluetooth Headset compatible with Cardo Scala Rider Q1, Li-Po 3.7V 400mAh 1.5Wh	Acquired			
LED Arduino	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	2	582	3-Color SMD RGB LED Module Compatible with Arduino	Acquired			
ESP32C3	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	2	73	Microcontrolador Seeed Studio XIAO ESP32C3 c/ Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.0 e carregamento de bateria - Seee	Acquired			
Button module	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	2	245	Button module (Joystick) 5 directions compatible w/ Arduino and Raspberry Pi - JOY-IT COM-5WS	Acquired			
Button, On/Off	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	4	55	Simple button	Acquired			
Step up	https://mauser.pt/catalog/product_info.php?product	1	1,026	Step-up Converter Uin: 2.512V Uout: 5/8/9/12V (5 units)	Acquired			
Each set (1st and 2nd device)				5,786				
Total:			14,902					

PROTOTYPE 1ST DEVICE SCHEME

BLE connection - between 1st device and computer



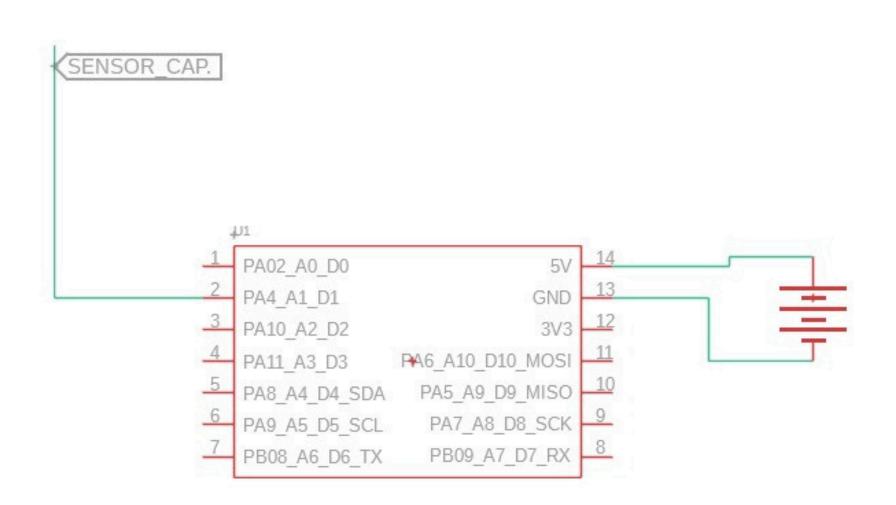
BLE connection - between 2nd and 1st device





PROTOTYPE 2ND DEVICE SCHEME

BLE connection - between 2nd and 1st device



Skin connection







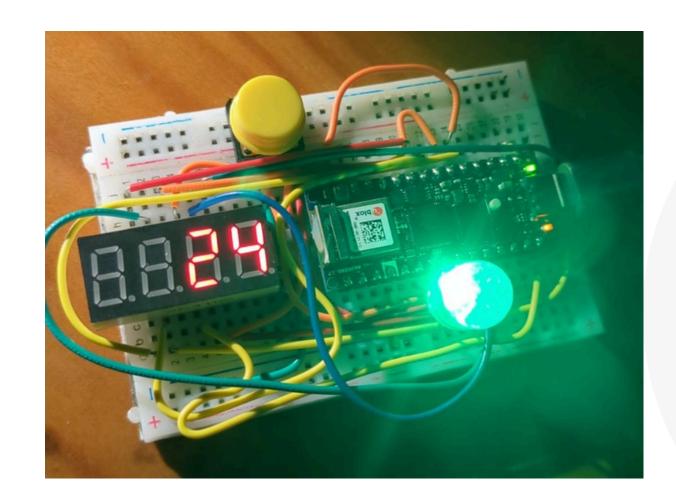
IMPLEMENTATION



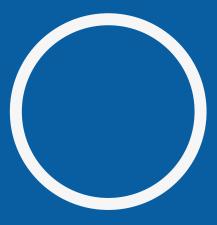


LED COLOURS

- Green: It's good.
- Yellow: It's recommend using headphones.
- Red: High noise levels with correct use of EPI.
- Yellow and Red blinking: Ear protection is mandatory.



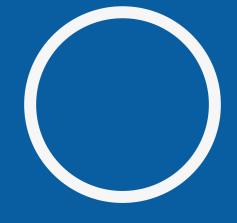
















BLUETOOTH (BLE) CONNECTION

Between the two microcontrollers, we use BLE, as it is a solution that works in all environments and has low power consumption.

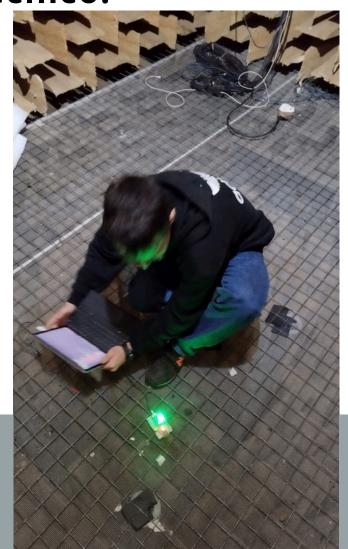
To transfer information from the RP to the PC, it is necessary to press the button on the device. The information is transmitted via USB.

Using the cloud would be another possible approach; however, in addition to requiring more time, it would also need constant Wi-Fi access and would not be as energy efficient. (Our partner does not have Wi-Fi in their facilities.)

CALIBRATION

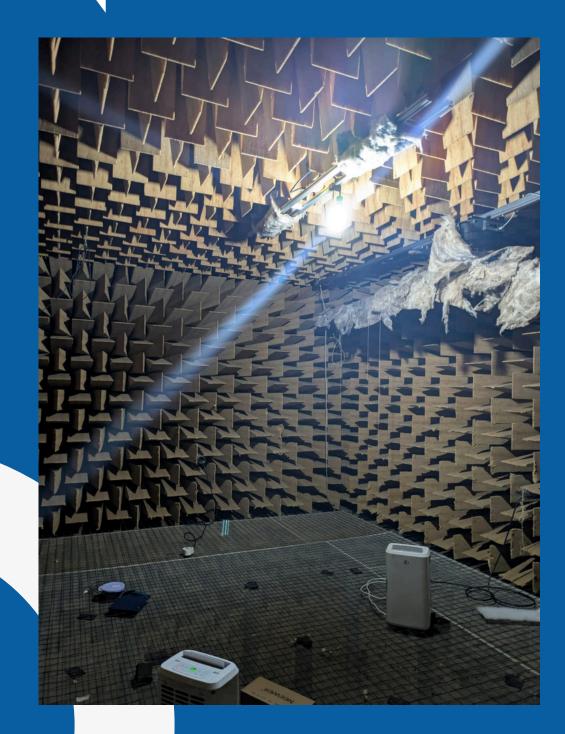
We calibrated our noise detection device using a sound level meter and a pistometer from Prof. Luís Caldas Oliveira.

We used the anechoic chamber at Instituto Superior Técnico.

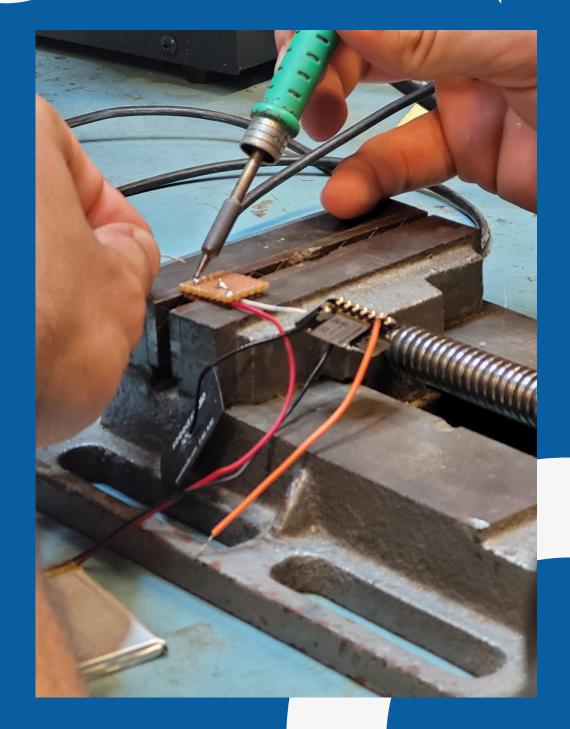




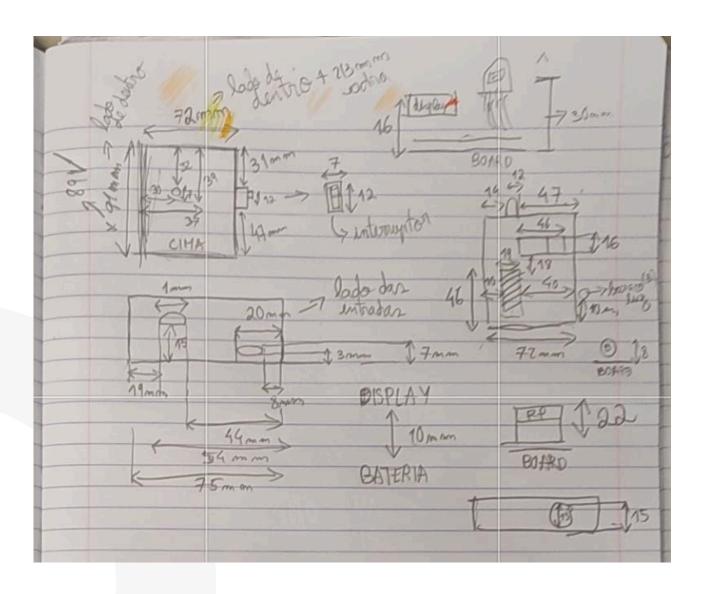






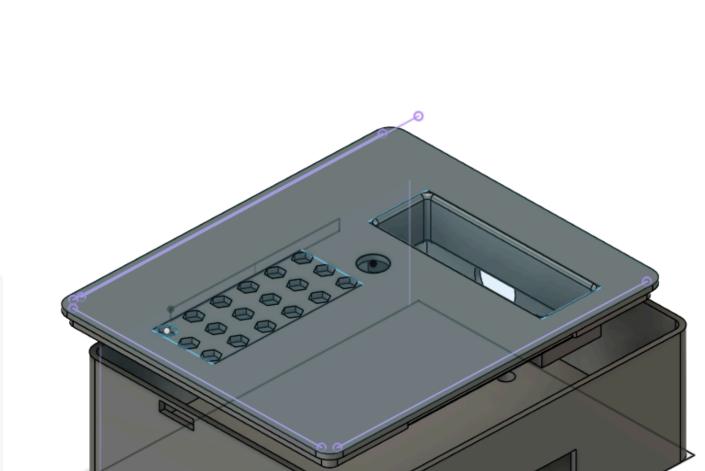


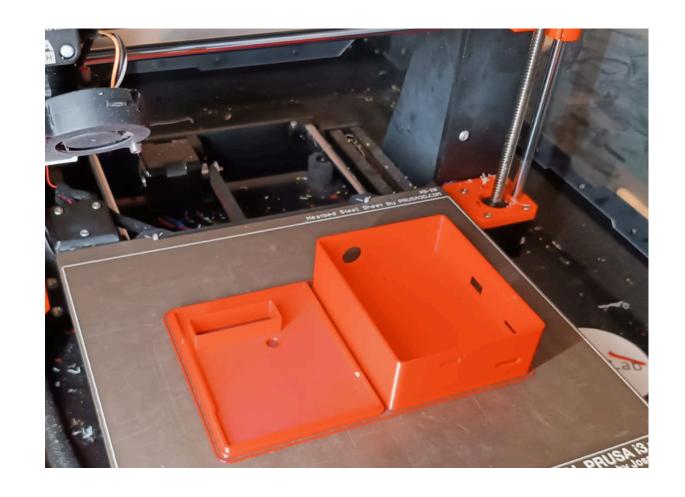
SOLDERING





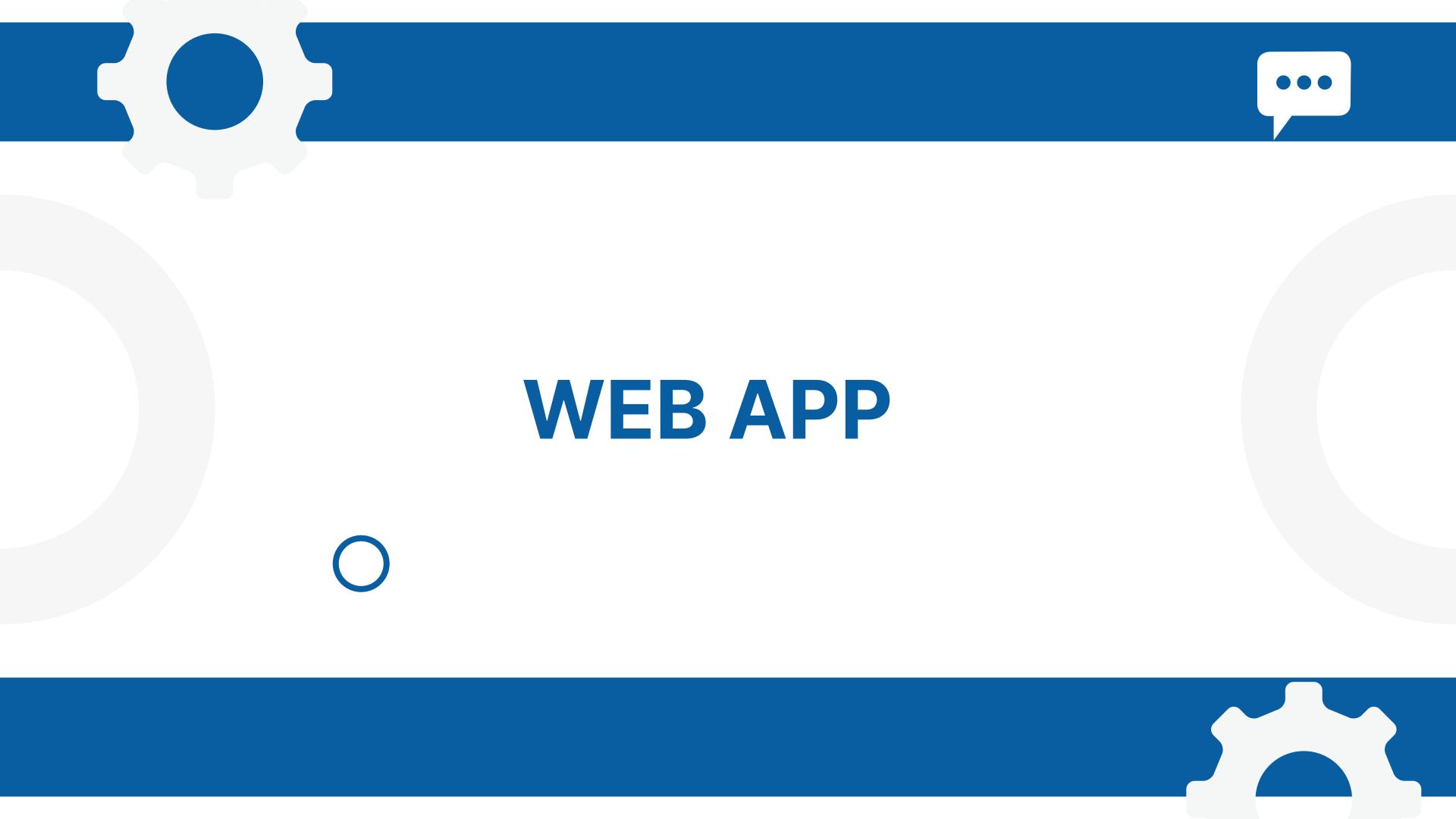
3D MODEL





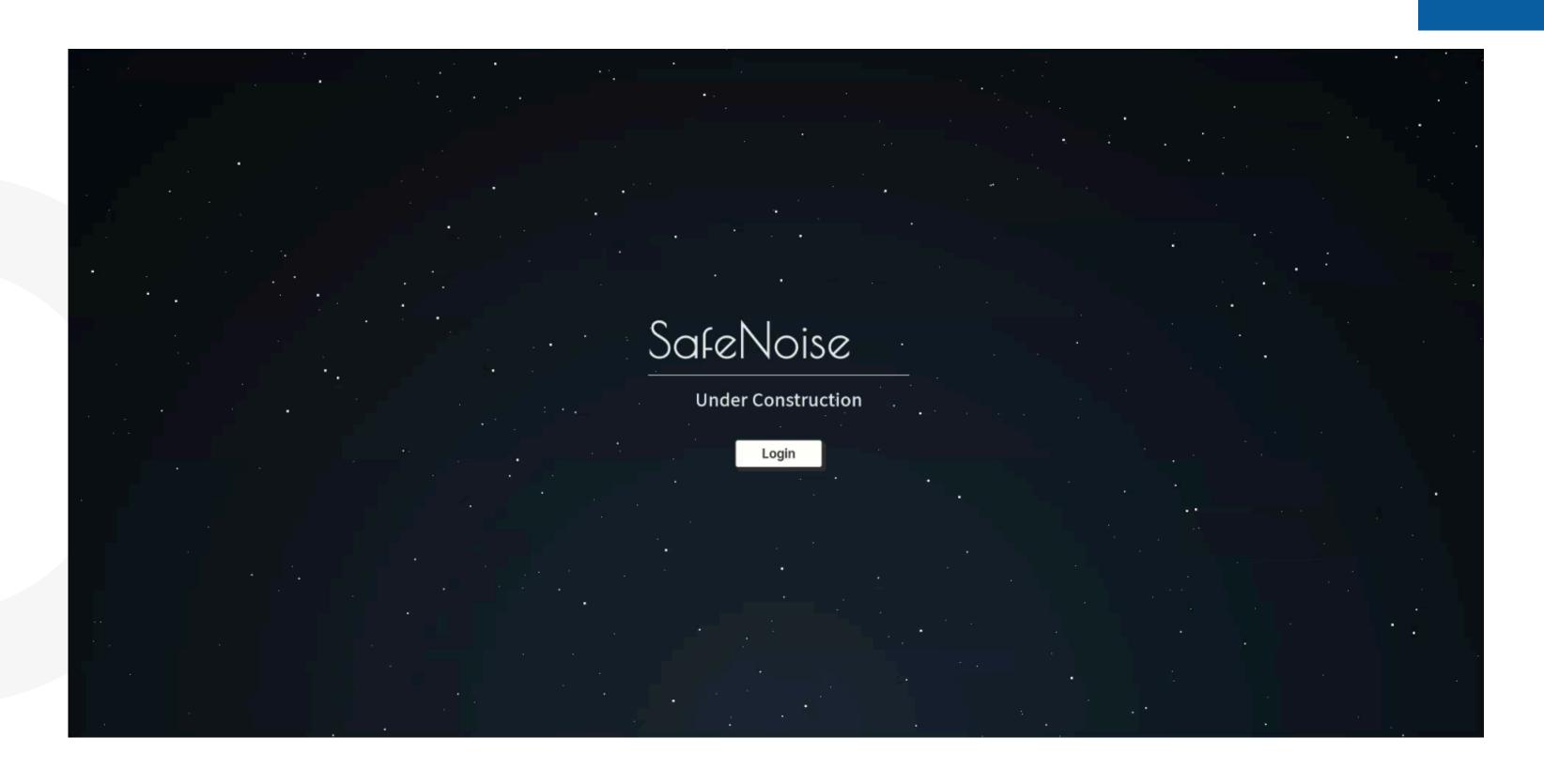






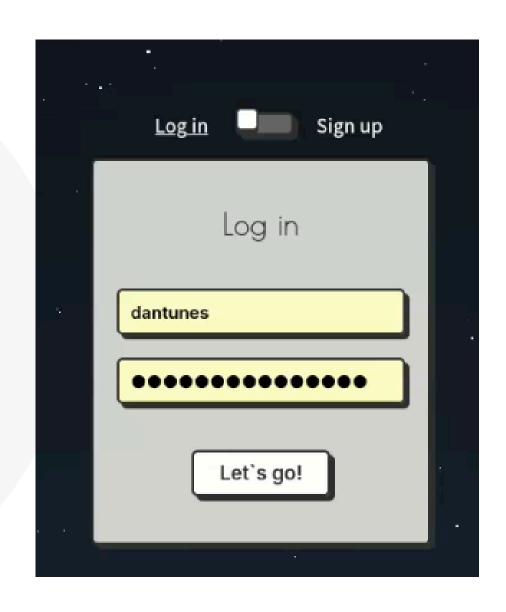
WEB DESIGN







WEB DESIGN PERSONNEL ACCOUNT

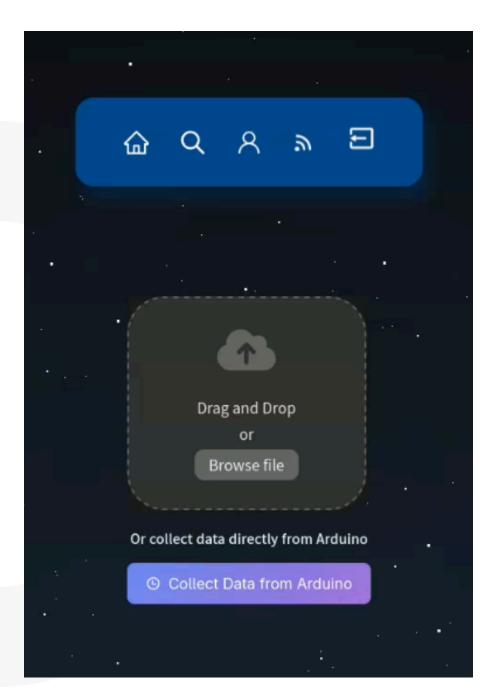




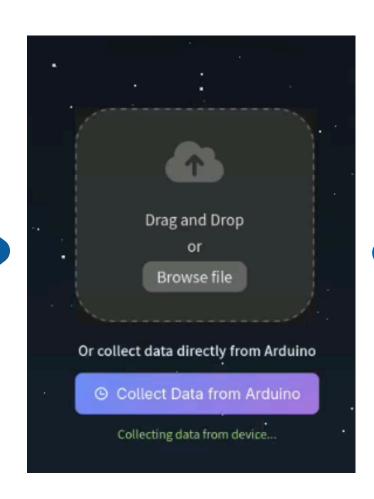




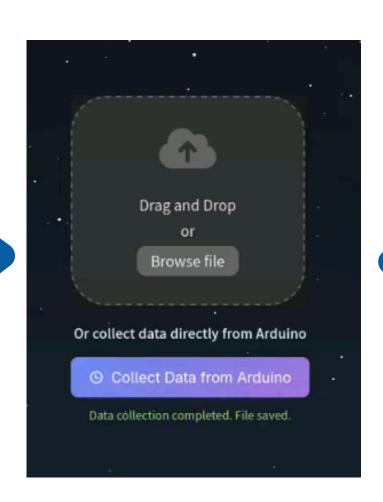
WEB DESIGN - UPLOAD





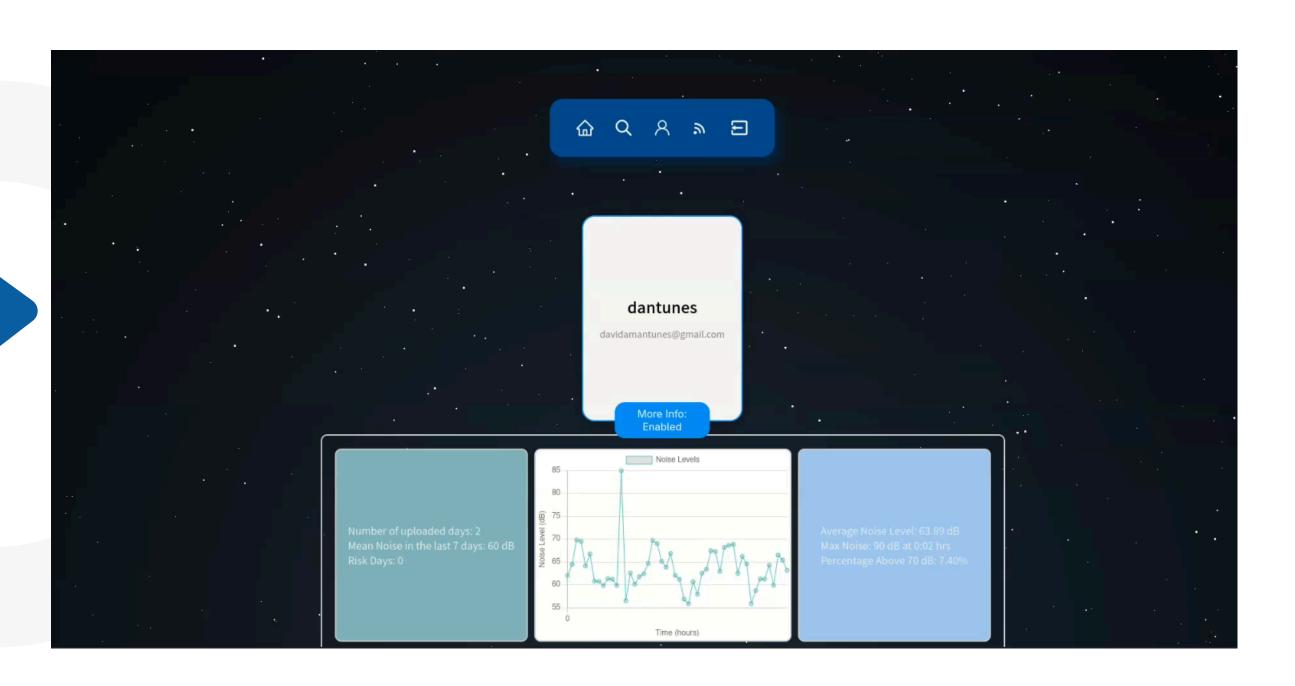












SEE FULL VIDEO HERE:

HTTPS://1DRV. **MS/V/C/C407C** XOBIKXAOC2M Y5PYEJ058KF JZW? **E=CYAFUK**



DATA ANALYSIS









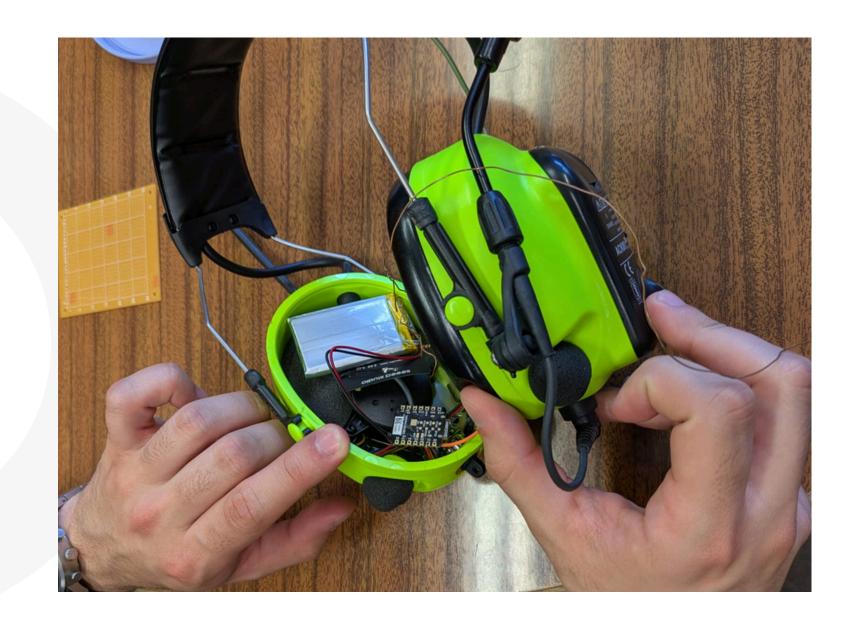
FINAL PROTOTYPE

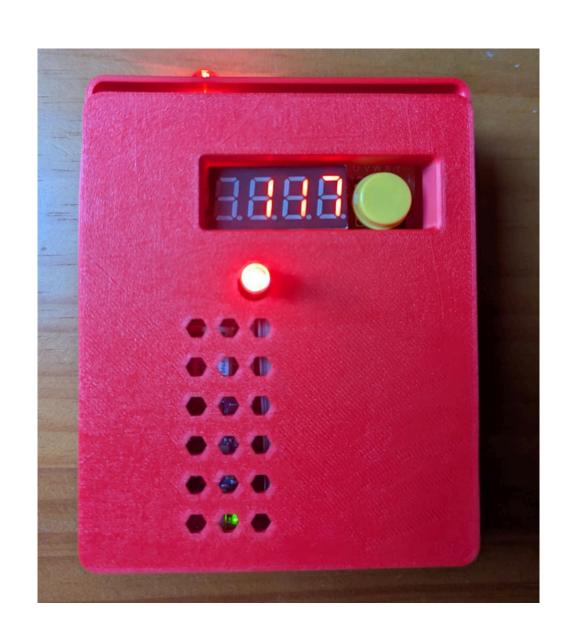
ALL FEATURES ARE OPERATIONAL



PROTOTYPE









SOME PRECAUTIONS

3D MODEL WITH A FITTING MECHANISM

3D model with a fitting mechanism for quick replacement of components in case of malfunction.

HEAT SINK

Heat sink to prevent excessive heating of the capacitive sensor.





TESTS AND RESULTS





BATTERY AUTONOMY

We went to IStarLab and, with their help, measured the current used by our main device while running at full operation.

The measured current was 150mA, which could easily be reduced by lowering the intensity of the LEDs, but that would make it less appealing to our visitors at ElectroDay. Thus, our device had an autonomy of over 7 hours, as we later verified









TESTING AND VALIDATION METRICS-RESULTS





- Proof of Concept
 - User acceptance testing confirmed the system effectively addresses the problem.
- PPE Usage Monitoring

 Detection accuracy, one false positive (bald workers).
- Noise Level Accuracy

 The calibrated device detects noise with acceptable error.
- Battery Life Assessment
 The battery has enough autonomy for a work shift.
- Devices establish a stable Bluetooth connection without problems.

TESTS





SAICA PACK VISIT







VALIDATION

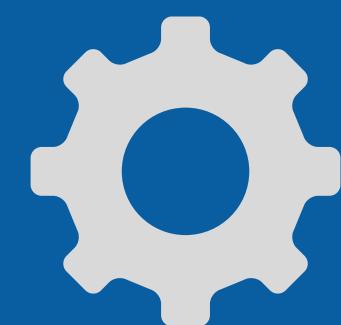


According to our Scientific Advisor and Mentor Eng. Patrícia Prudêncio, our Scientific Co-advisor and Mentor Catarina Teixeira, and other professionals who tested our prototype*, the problem that previously existed has been resolved. After the testing period, we verified that our solution is functional in all environments and scenarios, except for bald users who place the PPE on their head. This issue could be solved with a custom ear mold on the inner part of the PPE. However, this would increase the cost of implementation and make large-scale deployment more difficult.

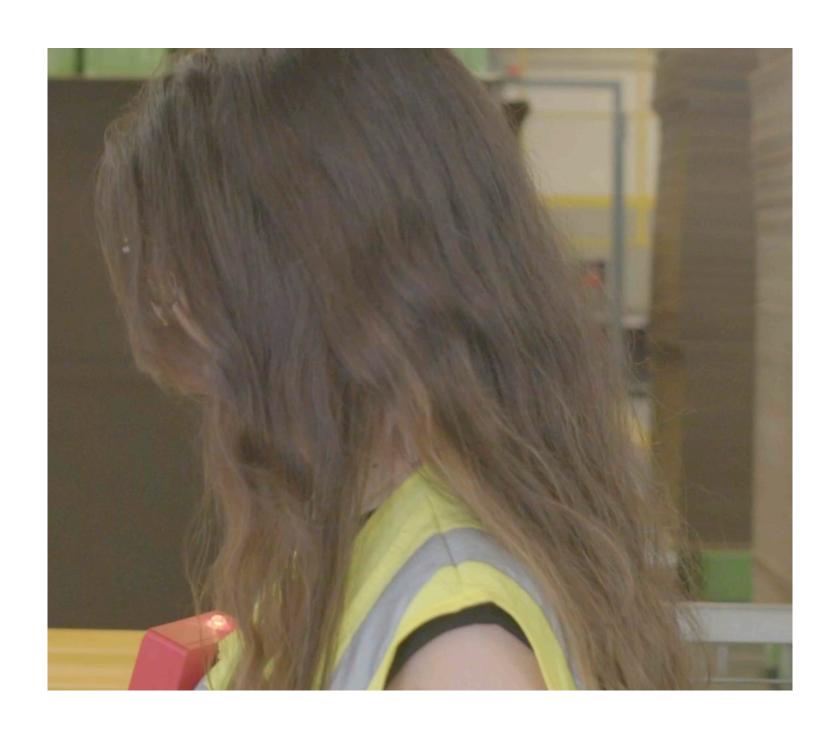
All the metrics and requirements of the solution were successfully implemented and tested.

* They do not appear in the video or in this presentation due to data protection.





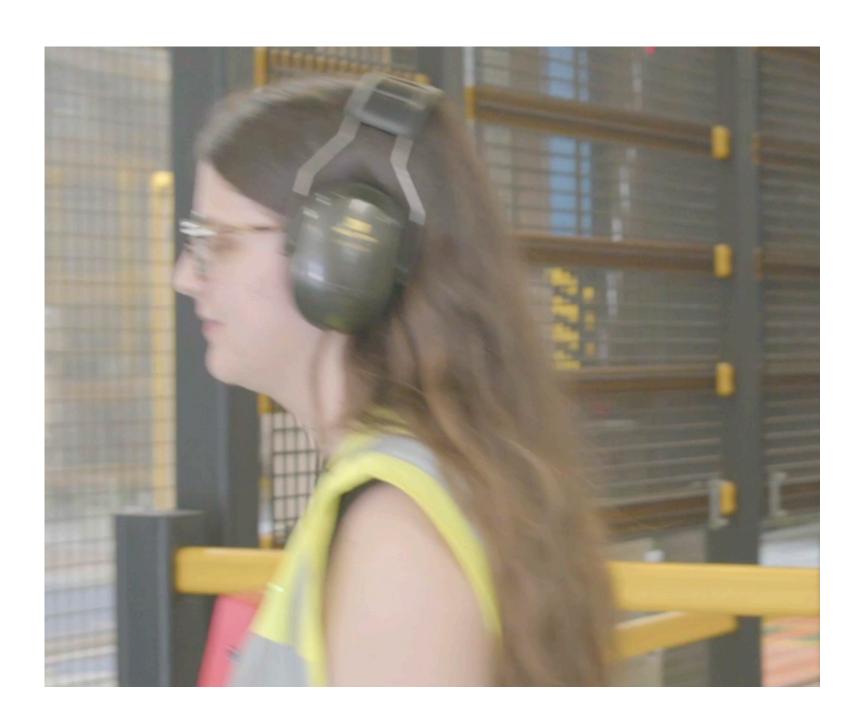




The worker noticed the Safe Noise warning.









SEE FULL VIDEO HERE:

HTTPS://1DRV.MS/V/C/C40 7C5DD659B29CF/EEPRDS OXOQ9JUPM2MBBSNEOBG 1WGTPESGKEC_TUY_UV7Y Q?E=WRYG4C



USER AND PARTNER OPINION

We spoke with our partners about the work developed. This was the speech by Scientific Advisor and Mentor Eng. Patrícia Prudêncio and Scientific Coadvisor and Mentor Catarina Teixeira.



USER / PARTNER OPINION





"Boa tarde aceitamos este desafio com o Instituto Superior Técnico porque as parcerias entre universidades e indústrias são fundamentais para a inovação, para o desenvolvimento de competências, pondo os conhecimentos científicos em prol da indústria e da melhoria das condições de trabalho.

Na nossa indústria nós temos investimentos para redução de ruído, nomeadamente implementação de medidas técnicas. No entanto, em algumas zonas continua a ser importante e fundamental o uso do Equipamento de Proteção Individual. [...]"

USER / PARTNER OPINION





"[...] Para além de ser um projeto único em Portugal, neste tipo de equipamento. É uma maisvalia para qualquer empregador e nesse sentido, vamos conseguir, com certeza, promover uma maior cultura de segurança junto dos nossos trabalhadores. Servirá também de informação e de alerta para os mesmos quando não estão a fazer o devido uso do equipamento ou quando lhes possa passar despercebido o ruído a que estão expostos.

Agradecemos também todo o empenho. Foi um processo bastante interessante e sem dúvida vainos ajudar na prevenção da segurança e da saúde do trabalho."

CONFORT SOLUTION





CONFORT SOLUTION



SEE FULL VIDEO HERE:

HTTPS://1DRV.MS/V/C/C40
7C5DD659B29CF/EYEXQL
DGXEJJUK8YNDDGE9WB_
MABQDQYNQKAKRD5N06GA?
E=C2XWJE



CHALLENGES







CHALLENGES FACED BY THE TEAM

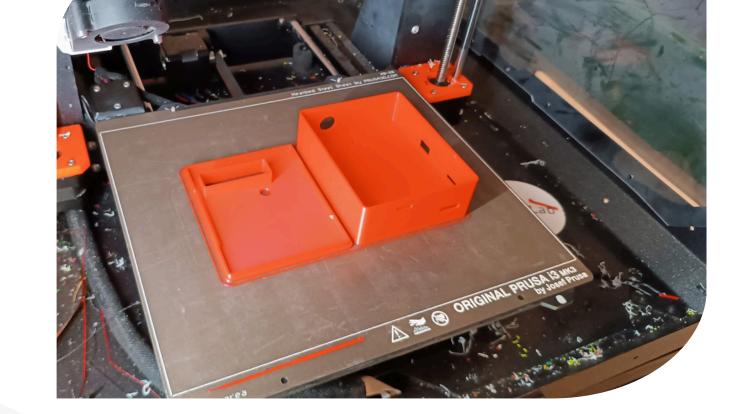
- Communication challenges between Alameda and Tagus.
- 02 Task management has been difficult. One of us quit.
- O3 Companies are not always available to assist us.
- 04 We had little time to implement the prototype.

TECHNICAL (CHALLENGES (1)



- O1 Real-time noise detection accuracy and range.
- Data analysis: The algorithm to group data and treat noises measurements.
- Verification of PPE usage, using a capacitive sensor.
- 05 Ensure proper calibration of the device.
- User Compliance: Ensuring workers comply with using this device.
- Battery Life and Power Consumption: Ensuring the device operates continuously for entire work shifts (8 hours).

TECHNICAL (O) CHALLENGES(2)



- Ensure the device maintains an acceptable level of comfort.
- Choosing an ESP32C3 without a touch sensor led to unnecessary extra work, as a model with an integrated sensor was found later.
- Due to time constraints and the need for device reliability, developing a PCB became impractical for this project.
- Learning 3D design tools was challenging.

 Achieving optimal results required reprinting parts and adjusting parameters.

- PCB design is challenging and success is not guaranteed; the tight schedule forced us to abandon that idea.
- Integrating different features in a web app can be challenging and time-consuming.

BLOG / WEBSITE

Initially, we started developing our blog using Hugo. Despite the efforts of several team members, we were unable to customize the site as we wanted. So, we decided to rebuild our site, keeping the same information but with a more intuitive interface, adapted for different screen sizes (mobile). Now we are using a library called Astro, which is based on JavaScript and Tailwind.

A blog with a good presentation and landing page is essential to make a strong impression

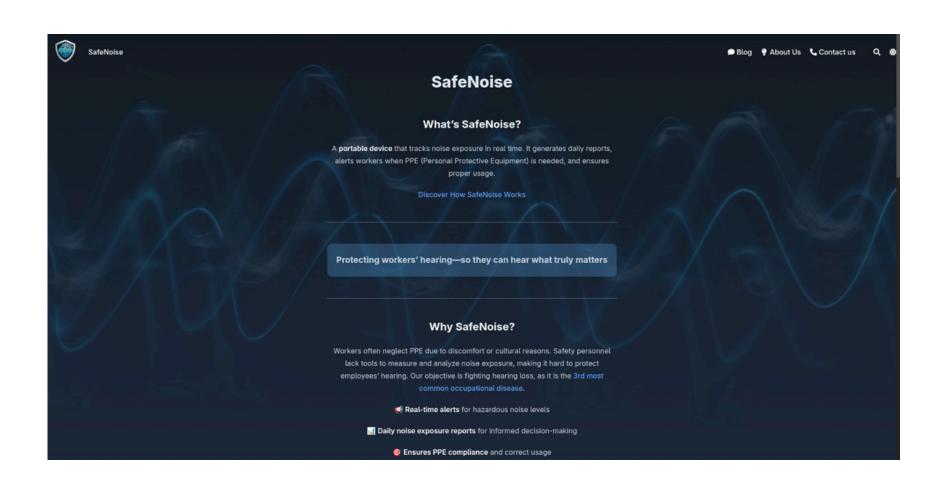


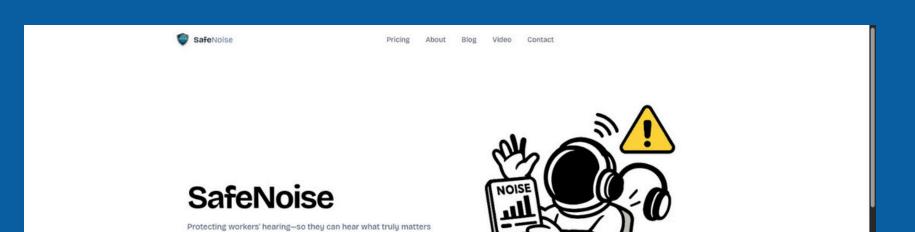






BEFORE





What's SafeNoise?

A portable device that tracks noise exposure in real time. It generates daily reports, alerts workers when PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is needed, and ensures proper usage.

AFTER



WHAT WE ACHIEVED?

ACHIEVED RESULTS (1)





Project Definition and Scope

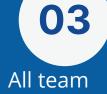


Our goals are to measure noise, develop a PPE detection system, alert workers, and analyze daily noise exposure.

02

Background Research

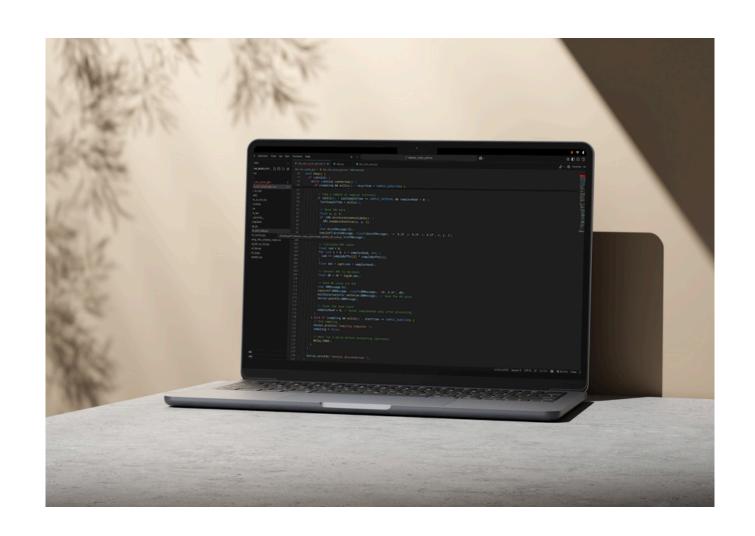
Tomás D. João S. We talked to the competition in Portugal and noticed that there is a gap in the market. We are trying to fight it with a focus on Portuguese and European legislation.

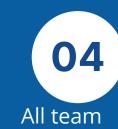


Requirements

The system detects noise and verifies the correct use of PPE, alerting the user through a device. It operates offline, communicating via BLE with a mobile application for monitoring and report generation. It must be affordable, easy to use, and compliant with safety regulations.

ACHIEVED RESULTS (2)





System Design

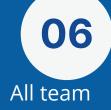
An RP2040 detects noise and alerts the user if levels are high (with LEDs). A Bluetooth transmission module verifies PPE usage.

05

Project Management

Joao S. Tomás D. David A.

The team has WhatsApp and Discord groups where project-related debates take place. With partners and interested parties, we communicate in person and via email. We have reunions, and website/blog is updated at least once a week.



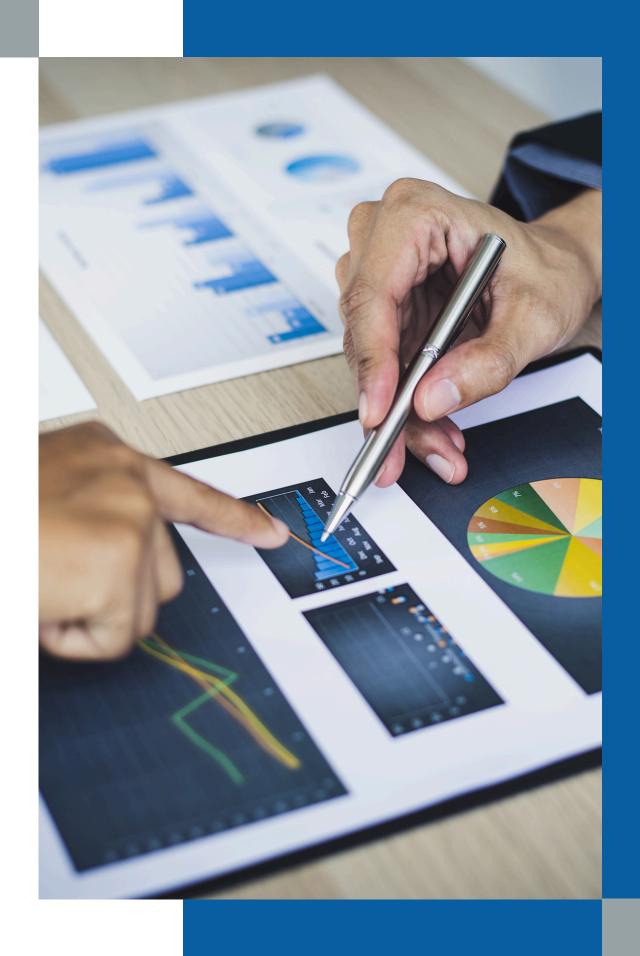
Prototyping

Two devices are made using 3D printing. The noise detector is versatile and can be used in various contexts.

OPTIMIZATIONS

- We improved memory by storing fewer samples per second (without reducing the sampling frequency and keeping peaks in mind);
- We reduced the LED brightness;
- Reduced CPU usage: it's only used when the buffer is full;
- Battery life maximized through previous optimizations;
- BLE.

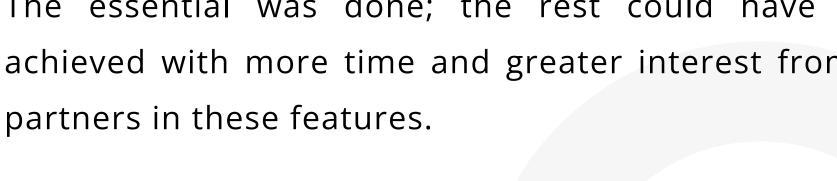




WHAT COULD **BE IMPROVED**

- Wireless charging;
- Send data to the cloud/Bluetooth;
- Turn off the LED;
- Sensor on both sides;
- Autonomous data transmission;

The essential was done; the rest could have been achieved with more time and greater interest from the







PROGRAM STATUS

FINAL STATUS OF THE PROJECT

- 01 We followed the UC calendar.
- We have a partner and adjusted the project according to their input.
- 03 We have test our implementation and design.
- Validation of the problem, solution and implementation.







ADDITIONAL INFORMATONS

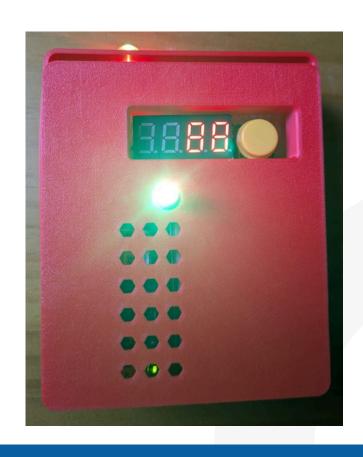
COSTS AND BENEFITS



The price is very low. For less than €60 (excluding 3D printing), it is possible to build solution. With large-scale production, the cost could be lower, as only the even necessary components would be manufactured — we are not using the full potential of the purchased components.

Our solution, besides being more affordable, enables the generation of daily and personalized reports, which are useful for beneficiaries. The devices are compact, lightweight, offer long battery life, and have a wide operating range. Thanks to its modular features, the 1st device can operate autonomously, if needed. On one hand, our implementation is portable; on the other, it can also be static. With this implementation, the alert is faster.

WHY PORTABLE?



PORTABLE DEVICE

- More personal data, greater usefulness for the beneficiaries;
- Device independence: the 1st device can operate autonomously, as if it were static;
- Fast and effective alert.

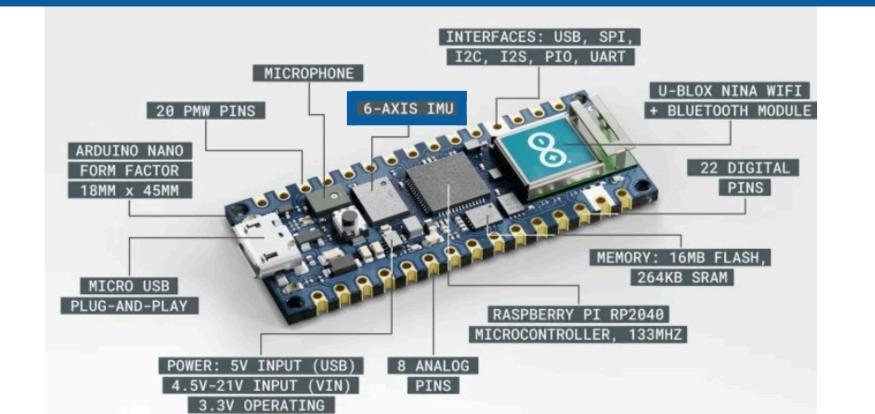


STATIC DEVICE

- Hard to predict which workers should be alerted;
- Difficulty in notifying the worker (three devices were needed);
- More devices, higher cost;
- No charging problems.

OTHER POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

- Instead of the capacitive sensor, have an accelerometer sensor that detects position in XYZ.
 - Disadvantage: Difficult to calibrate because it would depend on PPE to PPE, e.g., PPE attached to the helmet.
 - It would be possible to check whether the worker was working or not.





ELETRO DAY MATERIALS



VIDEO



URL

https://web.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/~ist1106327/public/video/



POSTER

SafeNoise Team 8 - EletroCap 2024/2025 2° Semester

ULisboa - Instituto Superior Técnico











Tiago Gonçalves David Antunes LEEC LEEC LEEC

João Silvestre Tomás Dias Miguel Simões LEEC

3888

• • •

Problem

Unprotected noise exposure in workplaces leads to unnoticed, irreversible hearing loss.







Beneficiaries



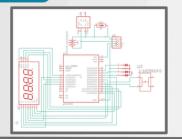






Development





Solution Requirements

- Compliance with Legal Standards
- User Alerts & Awareness
- Daily reports
- Monitoring Correct Use of PPE
- Scalability



- Electrical circuit schematic design.
- PCB schematic development

- Selecting appropriate components for the project.

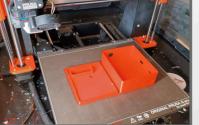






Capacitive Sensor









))) Bluetooth Low Energy



Charging module



Acknowledgements

External Links

To better understand our solution, we present:

The QR code to our blog with our materials.

Optimizations

reducing the sampling frequency and keeping peaks in mind).

• Reduced CPU usage: it's only used when the buffer is full.

• Battery life maximized through previous optimizations.

• Reduce device size for increased portability.

· We reduced the LED brightness.

• We improved memory by storing fewer samples per second (without

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the support we received from our family and friends throughout this journey. Your encouragement and understanding were invaluable.

A special thank you to Eng. Patrícia Prudêncio; Catarina Teixeira; Prof. Luís Caldas Oliveira; Tiago Lourinho whose support were particularly meaningful.





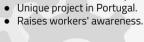
Product Description

Smart device monitors workplace noise, detects PPE usage, and provides instant alerts and detailed safety reports.



Results and Users opinion

- PPE Usage Monitoring. Proof of Concept.
- Noise Level Accuracy.
- Battery Life Assessment.
- BLE Connection Stability.









Scalable Design





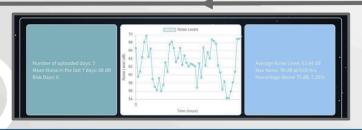


Solution can be

Daily report generation



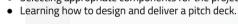
We are unaware of measurement equipment that fully meet the proposed requirements, but this may be achievable by integrating it into tools we developed.





What we learned

- · Developing websites and web applications.
- 3D Modeling.
- Using a sound level meter for device calibration.
- Soldering electronic components.







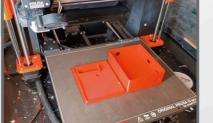
Technology Used















LEARN MORE CONTACT US

ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

Tiago Gonçalves



Tomás Dias

Team 8



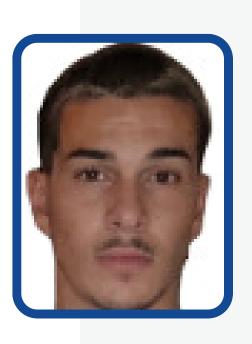
David Antunes



On May 12, 2025, João Campos withdrew from the course.



João Silvestre



Miguel Simões

SAFENOISE BLOG



URL

https://web.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/~ist1106327/public/

WEB DEV

David Antunes

WEB UPDATES Weekly summary

Tiago Gonçalves





Team 8



SAFENOISE

ELECTROCAP PITCH DECK

Website: Team 8





