

FIFA Innovation Programme Project Summary

FIFA Innovation Challenge:	Innovative EPTS (see details below)
Project Title:	Lower-limb foot-mounted IMU in football
Company/product:	PlayerMaker
Supporting competition organiser:	The FA
Project period:	January 2021 - September 2022

FIFA Innovation Challenge Details

Challenge 2: Innovative Electronic Performance & Tracking Systems

Category: Football equipment & playing surfaces

The most common type of EPTS in football is the wearable worn in a vest on the player's upper back. FIFA's impact assessment testing and Quality Programme for EPTS have created a recognised framework for these systems to be tested and approved in accordance with the Laws of the Game. As technology develops, FIFA is keen to explore systems that currently do not conform to this definition but add value to the performance or medical aspects of the game by offering new data sources that are currently not available or simpler and more cost-efficient solutions for the football world. Any devices must be able to demonstrate this added value as well as show that they do not pose any risk to both the player wearing the EPTS and any potential opposing player.

Executive Summary of the Innovation Project

PlayerMaker designed a foot-mounted IMU device worn by many players in training. Unlike back-mounted wearables, this product enables further-reaching insights into performance and medical disciplines due to the position on the boot generating data on the lower limbs. It shows promise to being a cost-efficient alternative for individual and team data collection and in simplifying analysis, thus contributing to making tracking technologies available across more levels of football. As the device is worn over the shoe, it is currently incompatible with permitted equipment in the Laws of the Game. The current project therefore aims to demonstrate the value of PlayerMaker to coaching staff in game through a controlled experiment in collaboration with the FA. A study in partnership with Leeds Beckett University and The FA is planned to assess the value of the insights generated from the devices which – if proven to add value – will even the path for the device to be granted approval for certification under the FIFA Quality Programme for EPTS.

Results & additional documentation

Interim results and further information will follow as the project progresses.

