



UC San Diego

# TEAM ATHENA

BY: KATHERINE LIAO, GISELLE CARMES, DYLAN CHENG, NATHAN TOSOC, JEFFREY THI, MEGAN SWEENEY

**Interview Count: 90**

**TASK: DEVISE A SOLUTION TO AID IN FPV AND SHADED DRONE MITIGATION AND INTERCEPTION.**



**Giselle Carames**  
Cogsci ML



**Dylan Cheng**  
Data Science



**Jeffrey Thi**  
Math-Computer Science



**Nathan Tosoc**  
Computer Science



**Megan Sweeney**  
Communication



**Katherine Liao**  
Political Science

# HOW DID WE START TACKLING OUR PROBLEM STATEMENT?

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# MMC V.1

Key Partners	Key Activities	Value Propositions	Buy-In & Support	Beneficiaries
<p><i>Mentor &amp; Problem Sponsor:</i> Ping Wang @ Forward Horizon Group</p> <p>-BRAVE 1 -Ukrainian Armed Forces -Ministry of Digital Transformation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Research of current problem with countering drones</li><li>-Research on how drones operate</li></ul>	<p><b>Value Propositions</b></p> <p>Preventing drone units from reaching their targets in Ukraine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Problem Sponsor</li><li>-Maintaining a relationship of constant communication</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Ukraine Ministry of Defense</li><li>-Ukraine Army</li><li>-Private sector defense companies</li></ul>
	<p><b>Key Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Advisors who know how drones operate &amp; countermeasures</li><li>-Builders who will implement our ideas</li><li>-Users of the technology</li></ul>		<p><b>Deployment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Unknown until research progresses</li></ul>	

## Mission Budget/Cost

- Unknown as of now
- Expected to calculate budget / cost by week 3 or 4

## Mission Accomplishment/Impact Factors

Enforcing an effective anti-drone system for preventing successful attacks by suicide drones.

# MVP EVOLUTION

WEEK 3



WEEK 4



WEEK 5



WEEK 7



WEEK 6



**THROUGH THE 90 INTERVIEWS  
WE CONDUCTED, WE WERE ABLE  
TO HONE DOWN OUR MMC.**

# MMC FINAL

Key Partners	Key Activities	Value Propositions	Buy-In & Support	Beneficiaries
<p><i>Mentor &amp; Problem Sponsor:</i> Ping Wang @ Forward Horizon Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-BRAVE 1</li><li>-Ukrainian Armed Forces</li><li>-Ministry of Digital Transformation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Interview Ukrainian front-line soldiers, anti-drone startups</li><li>-Research more into detection system options (acoustic &amp; RF)</li></ul>	<p><b>Value Propositions</b></p> <p>Enhance detection systems to provide better range assessment for incoming drones.</p> <p>Improve Ukrainian National Defense against FPV drones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Problem Sponsor, Ping Wang</li><li>-Expects constant updates, communication</li></ul>	 <p>Ukrainian Front-line Soldier</p>
	<p><b>Key Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Advisors who know how drones operate &amp; countermeasures</li><li>-Builders who will implement our ideas</li><li>-Users of the technology</li></ul>		<p><b>Deployment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Connections in Eastern Europe have offered to assist us in testing and deploying MVP on the front line.</li></ul>	 <p>Ukrainian Military Commander</p>

## Mission Budget/Cost

Average cost per unit for RF signal: \$555

Average cost per unit for acoustic: \$650

## Mission Accomplishment/Impact Factors

- Enforcing an effective anti-drone system for preventing successful attacks by suicide drones (FPV)
- They would be the ones paying for experiments

# **WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE ADDRESSING?**

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# PROBLEM STATEMENT.

As the use of drone systems evolves in the Russia-Ukraine war, Ukrainian forces are having issues with determining the **distance** of the approaching **FPV drones**.



# **WHAT IS THE SOLUTION WE ARE PROPOSING?**

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# PROPOSED SOLUTION

- MULTI-SENSOR DETECTION SYSTEM (RF & ACOUSTIC)
- FIBER-OPTIC CONNECTED
- CARRIED AND DROPPED BY FPV DR

# MVP SPECIFICATIONS

## ACOUSTIC SENSOR

### Features

1. Frequency (20Hz - 20kHz)
2. High sensitivity & low self-noise
3. Omnidirectional
4. Durable

### Potential issues

1. Exterior noises/disruptions
2. Timely Setup
3. Small range



## RF SENSOR

### Features

1. Omni-directional antenna
2. Covers frequency range of 900MHz - 5.8GHz
3. Size/Weight considerations
4. Passive

### Potential issues

1. Line of Sight
2. Limited vertical detection
3. Terrain / Obstruction



# **WHO BENEFITS FROM THIS?**

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# BENEFICIARIES

## UKRAINIAN FRONT-LINE SOLDIER

*Background:* Experienced in serving on the front lines of Ukraine defense.

- Regularly encounters FPV drones

*Main Priority:* Neutralize Drone Threats

- Consistent, effective, efficient

*Needs:* Practical solution for detecting and disabling FPV drones.



## UKRAINIAN MILITARY COMMANDER

*Background:* Oversees frontline operations and strategic planning.

*Main Priority:* National Defense

- Enhance countermeasures

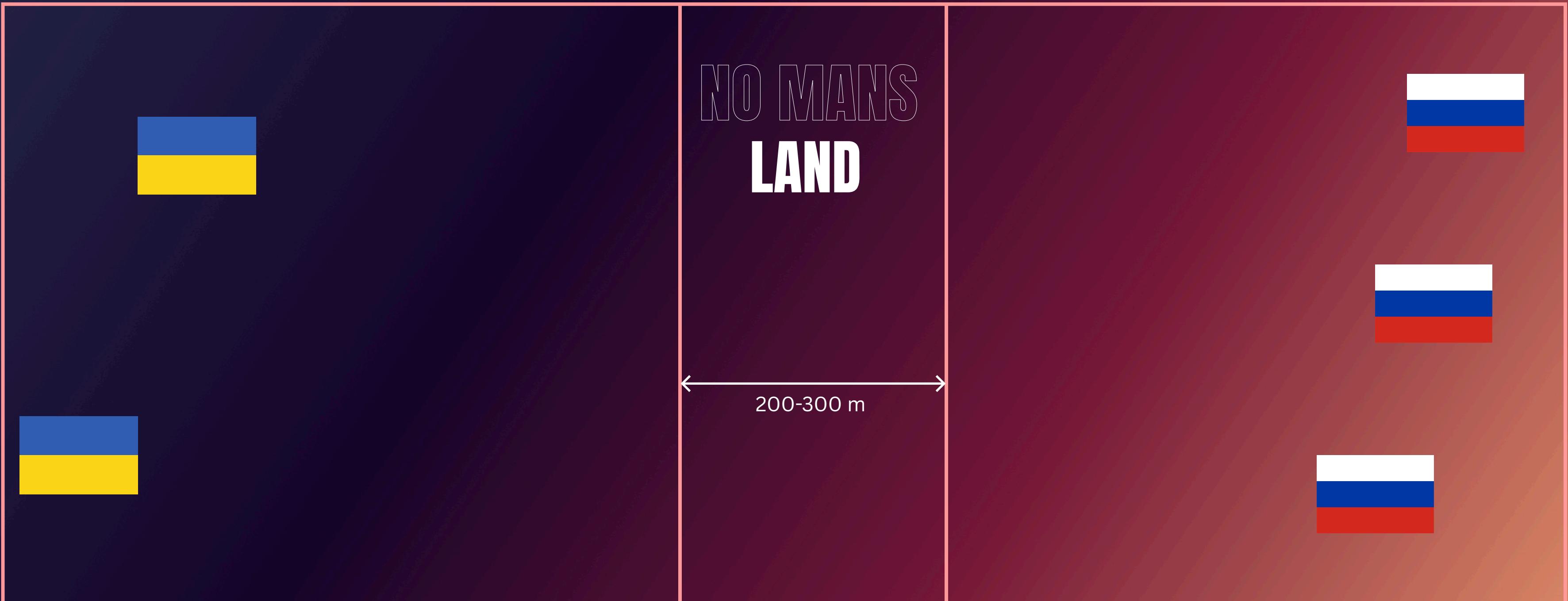


*Needs:* Effective counter for enemy FPV drone, to protect soldiers and friendly FPV pilots.

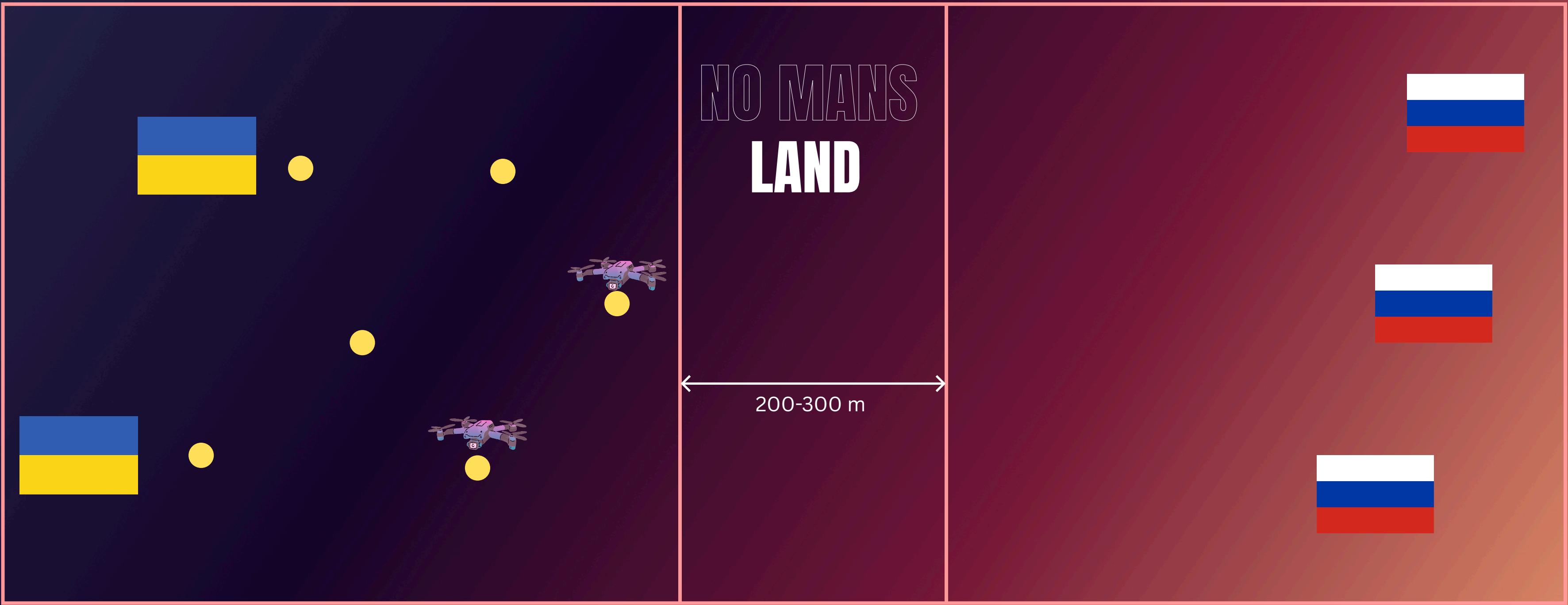
# **UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT BATTLEFIELD.**

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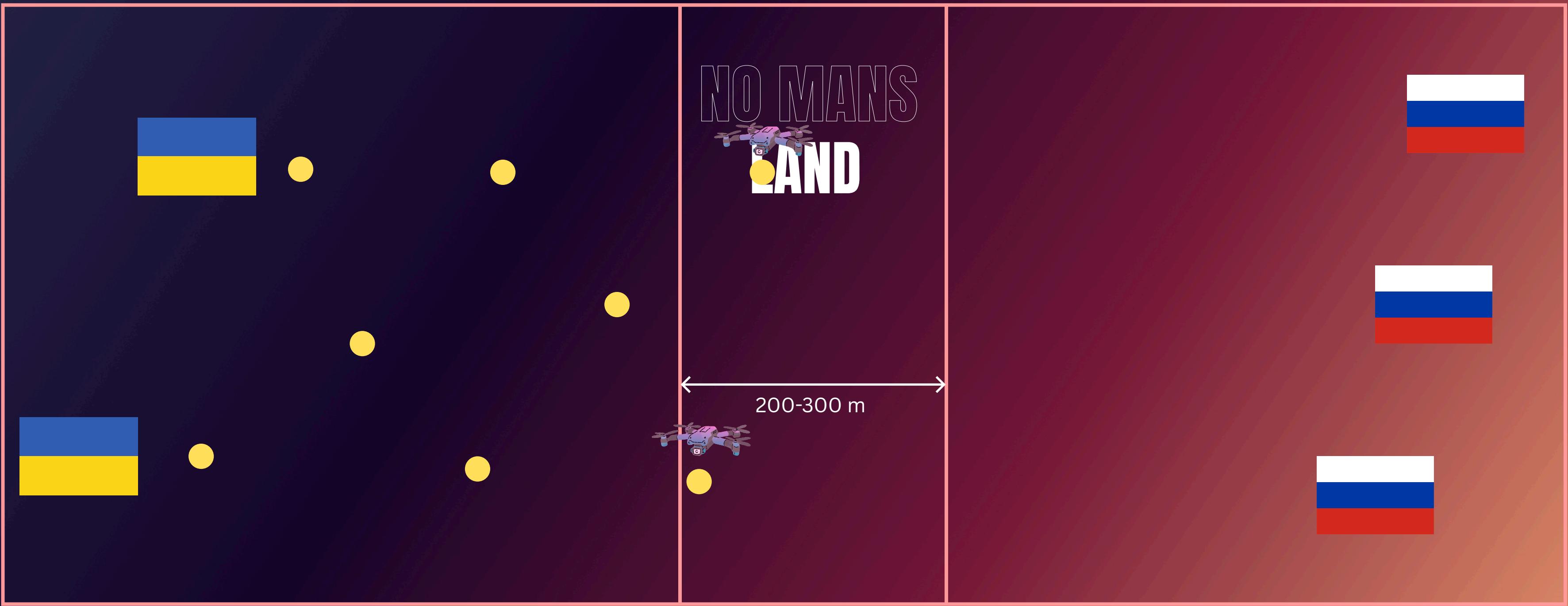
# BATTLEFIELD



# BATTLEFIELD



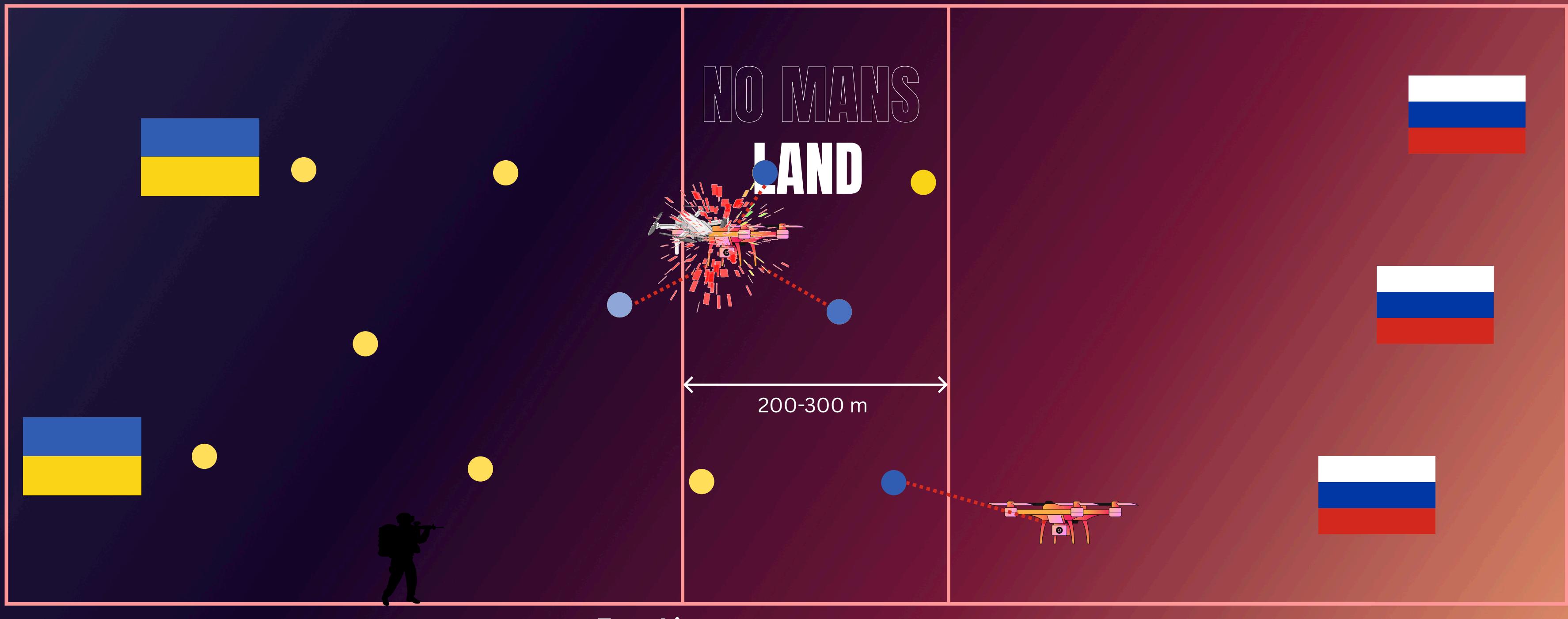
# BATTLEFIELD



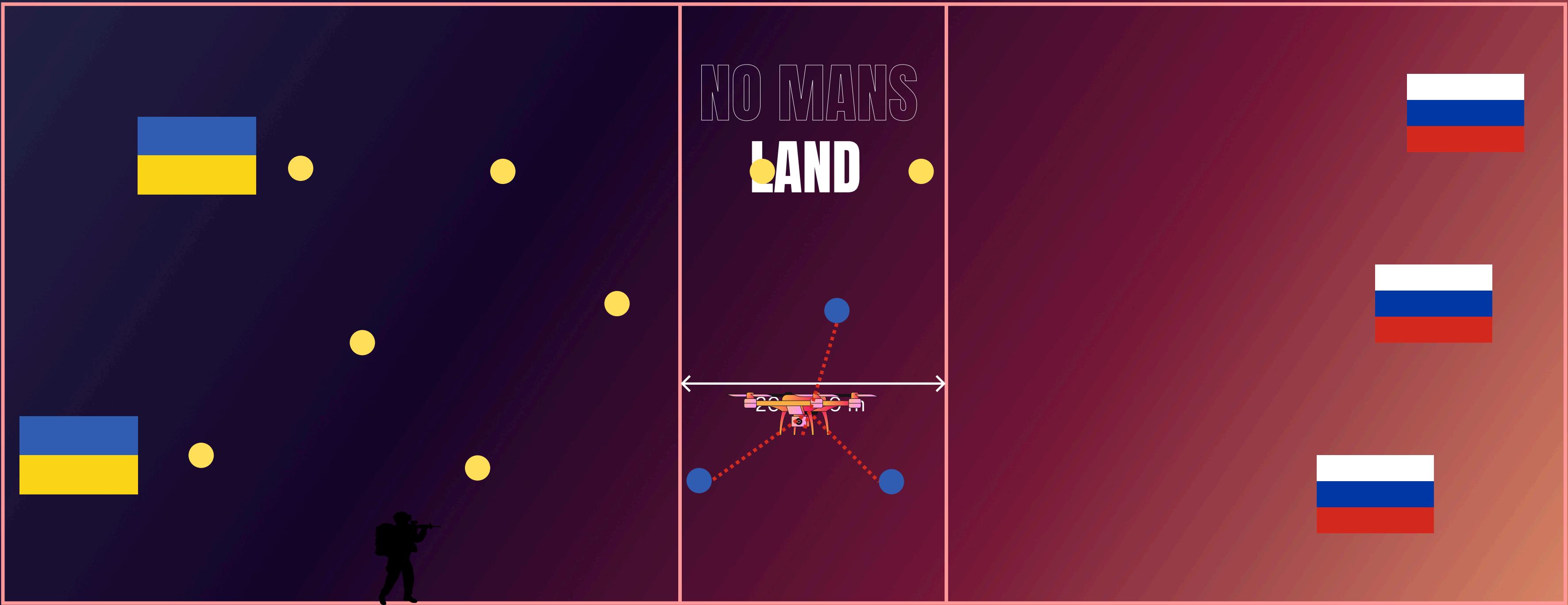
Zero Line

Zero Line

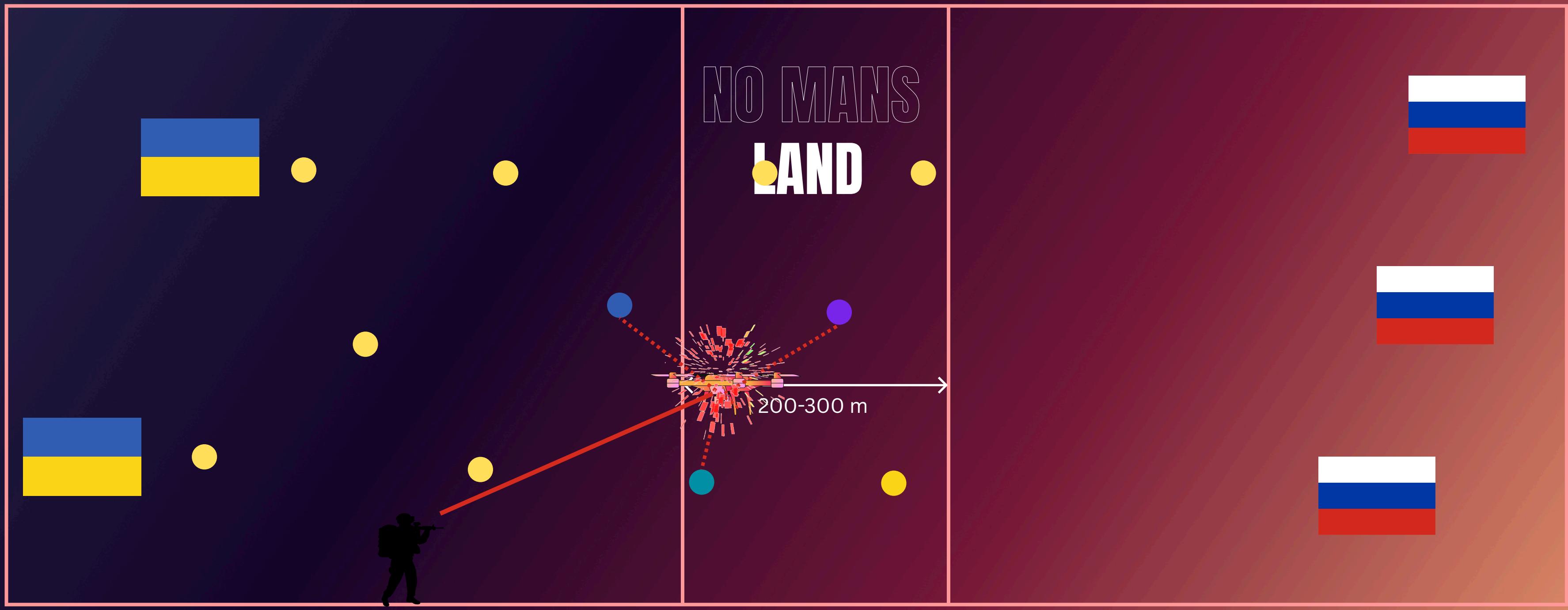
# BATTLEFIELD



# BATTLEFIELD



# BATTLEFIELD



Zero Line

Zero Line

**NOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND  
THE CONTEXT, HOW DO WE  
MOVE FORWARD WITH R&D?**



# R&D

# STEPS

Research and Development



**TOTAL COST - \$18,000**

**HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF  
THE COSTS.**

# CUSTOM SENSORS COST

## ACOUSTIC SENSOR

Component	Approximate Cost
Omnidirectional Mic	\$400
Acoustic Vents	\$50
Micocontroller/SBC	\$75
ADC + preamp board	\$30
Fiber Converter Module	Free
Software (ML)	Free
Total	\$555

RANGE: 100-300M

## RADIO FREQUENCY SENSOR

Component	Approximate Cost
Software Defined Radio	\$350
Omnidirectional Antenna	\$60
Low-Noise Amplifier	\$35
Embedded Controller	\$55
Weatherproof Enclosure	\$50
Power	\$100
Fiber Optic Converter	Free
Software (ML)	Free
Total	\$650

RANGE: 500-1000M

# CUSTOM SENSORS COST

## ACOUSTIC SENSOR

Component	Approximate Cost
Omnidirectional Mic	\$400
Acoustic Vents	\$50
Microcontroller/SBC	\$75
ADC + preamp board	\$30
Fiber Converter Module	Free
Software (ML)	Free
Total	\$555

# CUSTOM SENSORS COST

## RADIO FREQUENCY SENSOR

Component	Approximate Cost
Software Defined Radio	\$350
Omnidirectional Antenna	\$60
Low-Noise Amplifier	\$35
Embedded Controller	\$55
Weatherproof Enclosure	\$50
Power	\$100
Fiber Optic Converter	Free
Software (ML)	Free
Total	\$650

# **WHAT HAS OUR JOURNEY BEEN LIKE?**

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# Project Timeline



# LOOKING FORWARD

We will be proposing our solution to Ukrainian forces and, if it is accepted, looking for builders who are capable and knowledgeable regarding sensor hardware.

## Our Team



Giselle Carames

Jeffrey Thi

Dylan Cheng

Nathan Tosoc

Megan Sweeney

Katherine Liao

## Problem Statement

**Original Problem Statement:** As the use of drone systems evolves in the Russia-Ukraine war, Ukrainian forces are having issues identifying, targeting, and downing FPV and Shahed drones.

**Final Problem Statement:** As the use of drone systems evolves in the Russia-Ukraine war, Ukrainian forces are having issues with determining the distance of approaching FPV drones.

## MVP



**Multi-Sensor Detection System**  
-RF & acoustic sensors  
-Connected by fiber-optic cables  
-Omni-directional antenna

## Future Prospects

*Benefits Looking*  
-FPV mitigation  
-Troop safety  
-Defensive advantage  
-Easy deployment  
-Limited training  
-Inexpensive

-Operational validation  
Compliance & regulation verification  
-Industry partnerships