

18-year-old Earth Prize Finalist Ryan Honary announces new city partnerships in California to scale AI wildfire detection system, SensoRy AI



- Ryan Honary is the founder of SensoRy AI, an AI-powered wildfire detection system
- The solution includes both sensors and a wildfire risk management platform that continuously monitors conditions and can detect fires at their earliest stages
- SensoRy AI has moved from 1.5 years of testing with the City of Irvine to announcing a planned large-scale deployment
- Laguna Beach has also announced a partnership with SensoRy AI for deployment across high-risk open spaces and inner canyons

GENEVA, Switzerland - 18-year-old Ryan Honary, founder of SensoRy AI, has announced two exciting partnership updates to further deploy his AI-powered wildfire detection technology across Irvine and Laguna Beach, California.

SensoRy AI is an AI-powered wildfire detection system, which includes both sensors and a wildfire risk management platform. It uses a wireless mesh network of sensors to continuously measure environmental conditions, as well as proprietary analysis and edge AI to detect wildfire ignitions at their earliest stages. The system provides rapid notifications and real-time information to help firefighters assess fire risk, understand potential fire behaviour and make faster decisions about response. The sensors are designed to be low-cost, scalable and deployable without existing infrastructure, including in remote and high-risk areas.



▲ A SensoRy AI wildfire detection sensor is shown during a KTLA 5 report on the company's partnership with the City of Irvine to expand early wildfire detection efforts. (Courtesy of KTLA 5)

In the City of Irvine, SensoRy AI is moving from 1.5 years of testing to a large-scale deployment. The pilots demonstrated that the sensors were highly effective at detecting wildfire ignitions and providing fire-risk data, with the network detecting and reporting an ignition from more than a mile away before it was identified by residents or existing camera systems. Now both the City of Irvine and Irvine Ranch Conservancy are preparing to deploy a large-scale network throughout the Irvine

Open Space Preserve in early 2027, supported by funding from the California Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.



Southern California city partners with teen-founded AI wildfire detection service

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Meanwhile, Laguna Beach has also announced a partnership with SensoRy AI for deployment. The City of Laguna Beach and Laguna Beach Fire Department will deploy the company's Wildfire Risk Management sensor network across high-risk open spaces and selected inner canyons. The deployment includes a pilot unit previously placed at Alta Laguna Park overlooking Aliso Woods Canyon and will give the department access to the broader network of SensoRy AI sensors operating in surrounding open spaces.

Ryan founded SensoRy AI while still in high school, developing the technology from a personal mission to help communities respond to the growing threat of wildfires. He was named a Finalist of The Earth Prize 2024 for his AI-powered wildfire sensor, receiving support and feedback to develop his solution further. Since then, he has developed and scaled SensoRy AI further with pilot testing and real-life deployment, receiving recognition in global media such as NBC and USA Today.

Ryan explained what these new partnerships mean for SensoRy AI:

"This large-scale deployment is a very exciting milestone for us... Since the deployment of the first-generation sensors last year, we have been able to make the hardware smaller and more efficient and train our AI models to be more accurate with large amounts of data that we have been collecting."

Ryan's success shows what young people can achieve when they are given the opportunity to turn their ideas into action. His work is a strong example of how the passion, creativity and determination of teenagers can lead to innovative solutions with real-world impact.

About The Earth Prize

The Earth Foundation is a Geneva-based non-profit that empowers, educates and inspires young people to tackle environmental challenges. Founded in response to the 2019 student-led climate rallies, it launched its flagship initiative, The Earth Prize, the world's largest environmental competition and 'ideas incubator' for young people. The competition aims to inspire and empower the next generation of environmental innovators, supporting participants with the tools they need to develop eco solutions for real-world impact, including one-on-one mentoring, learning resources and \$100,000 shared funding for the winners. Since 2019, The Earth Prize has reached over 21,000 students across 169 countries and territories, and awarded over \$500,000.

The Earth Prize: <https://www.theearthprize.org/>

The Earth Foundation: <https://www.earth-foundation.org/>

Impact PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/tep2026>

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