

Low Cost Border Alert System for Indian Fishermen using RFID in Microwave Range

A. Jayakumar, S. Sundaresan, S. Vetrivel

Abstract: One of the serious issue faced by South-East Indian fishermen is ambush attack of neighboring countries due to unaware crossing of the border while fishing. In aim of overcoming this fussy scenario a prototype is modeled with Atmega 328 controller and other modern electronics to alert the fishermen. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology operating in microwave frequency range with high coverage area plays a vital role in alert system. Two levels of boundaries with active RFID tags are erected within the nation's boundary limit. Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global System for Mobiles (GSM) modules gives hand for location tracking of boats and information transmission respectively. Boats with RFID nearing the first active tag gets alert through via controller through Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and audio output (speaker) and simultaneously information is conveyed to coastal officials. If the RFID reader detects second active tag, controller autonomously turns off the boat engine. Thus providing safe and secure fishing with low cost and reduces fishermen's fatal rate

Index Terms: RFID, active tags, microwave range, GPS, GSM.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays fishermen faces many risks for his day-to-day bread and survival is being a challenging task. In specific, fishermen's of South-East Tamilnadu are being arrested and shot to dead by other countries navy. To address this serious issue faced by fishermen's, in this paper, a cost efficient solution is suggested using microcontroller and RFID. Initially, two boundaries are installed at different distances within the nation's limit using RFID active tags for wider coverage area and operating at microwave frequency range.

In previous method, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi technology are adopted which lags due to poor coverage and blind spot region [1,2]. Monitoring of fishermen's boat inside ocean is complex with individual GSM [3], [5,6] and separate device is needed for location tracking, which makes system design expensive and inefficient [9][11]. Also, the alert is given only through coastal guards to fishermen's for crossing of boundary and there is no defined boundary marks in existing methods [4]. General Packet Radio System (GPRS) for security can send information only in text format and real

time tracing is not possible [10-12]. In few countries, sensor networks are made to use for monitoring system to reduce false alarm and wide coverage [2]. But sensor networks need more power utilization and maintenance is tedious for sensors deployed under water [4], [7]. Optimized protocols and recent algorithms need to be updated regularly for efficient working of sensor networks [14]. The proposed system overcomes the above difficulties with RFID technology (reader and active tags) and atmega 328 controller. For location tracing of fishermen's boat and transmission of information to coastal guards, integrated GPS and GSM modules interfaced with controller is used, which ensures safety to fishermen's job. This paper is organized as follows: Section II discusses about the modeling of the system, the hardware components utilized is briefed in Section III. Section IV explains the working of prototype for alert system and Section V put forth the results and discussions followed by conclusions in Section VI.

II. MODELING OF THE SYSTEM

The monitoring and alert system for fishermen is implemented with atmega 328, which serves as heart of the system. RFID reader and GSM are installed in boats and interfaced with controller using UART for asynchronous serial communication. For alerting purpose LCD and speaker are interfaced to controller and entire setup is fixed in boat. RFID tags are deployed at two different distances within the nation's boundary. Figure 1 shows the sketch of RFID boundary tags that are erected within the limit of nation's boundary. During fishing, boats nearing the first active tag boundary, an alert message is given to fishermen via output devices controlled by atmega 328 and simultaneously the latitude and longitude position of the boat is sent to coastal guards through GPS and GSM modules. Figure 2 displays the block diagram of the proposed system with atmega 328 controller and other interfacing components. If the boat continues its movement and sails further distance, second tag is detected by reader and this time controller turns off the engine autonomously via relay drive interfaced with it.

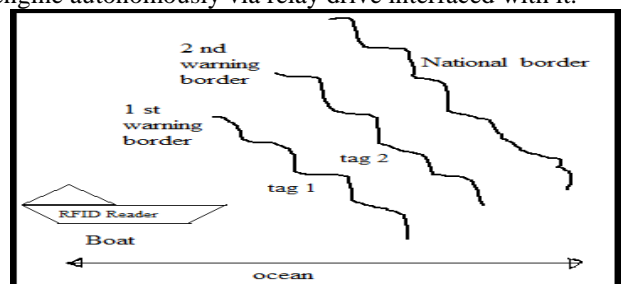


Figure 1 Sketch of Two Level RFID Boundary Tags

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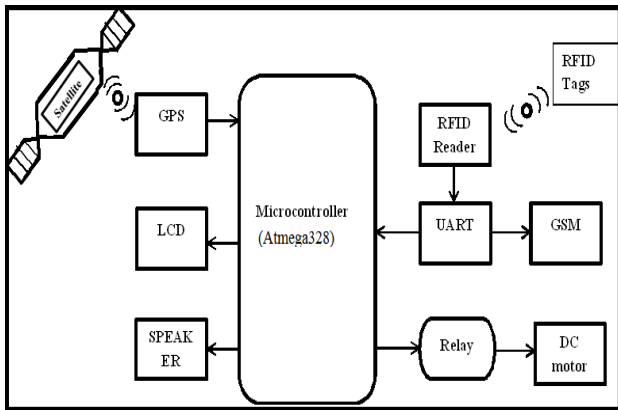


Figure 2 Block Diagram of Proposed System

III. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Atmega 328

Controller plays a key role in monitoring and gets data from other equipment's for taking necessary actions according to program loaded. Atmega 328 is 8 bit processor capable of performing read and write operations simultaneously with 23 general purpose I/O lines, 32 general registers, thus enhancing the computational speed with operating frequency of 20MHz. It also has programmable watchdog timer with internal oscillator, 5 software selectable power saving modes and achieves throughput approaching 1 MIPS per MHz. Interfacing other devices with atmega 328 is easier and supports high speed data transmission build up with AVR RISC based microcontroller.

3.2 RFID Reader and Tags

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology provides easy and cost effective way of electromagnetic signal tracking and identification which as electronically stored information. For border alert system, boundaries are formed using RFID active tags and reader is fixed in boats. RFID-RC522 module operating in 13.56 MHz frequency which consumes low power, low cost and compact size read write chip is utilized and is been interfaced with controller using UART. Figure 3 displays the RFID module casted in prototype. Module utilizes 3.3V power supply, data rate of 10Mbps/s, reading distance of 60mm with SPI protocol.

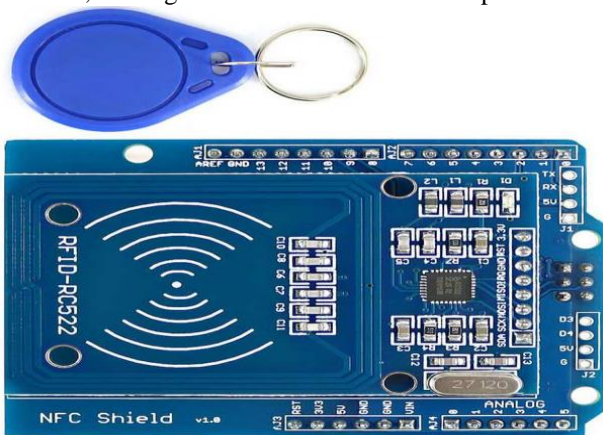


Figure 3 RFID-RC522 Module with Tag

3.2 GPS and GSM Modules

The information obtained from RFID tags is conveyed to coastal officials with latitude and longitude positions through GPS and GSM technologies. NEO-6M GPS and SIM 900A GSM/GPRS modules are made to use due to effective

transmission of data. NEO 6M GPS features UART interface, compact size, onboard RTC crystal for faster warm and hot starts. Integrated ceramic antenna helps in precise point positioning with Ublox 6 position engine and have Assist Now autonomous offline and online services for faster communication. Figure 4 shows the NEO-6M GPS module. SIM 900A GSM/GPRS operates at 900/1800 MHz and can be connected to controller via RS232 chip. Baud rate is configurable from 9600-115200 via AT command and has slide SIM card tray with stub antenna, Bluetooth modem and SMA connector. Consumes input voltage of 12V DC with high quality PCB FR4 grade. Figure 5 displays the SIM 900A GSM/GPRS module.

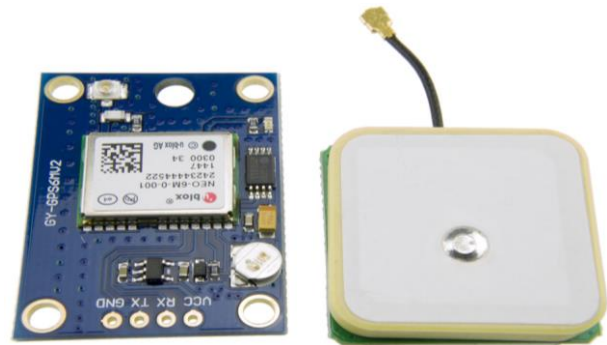


Figure 4 NEO-6M GPS Module with Ceramic Antenna



Figure 5 SIM 900A GSM/GPRS module

IV. SYSTEM WORKING

The border alert system for fishermen is replicated through prototype and made as a real time working model. Atmega 328 controller with RFID reader, active tags, display device, motor drive, GPS and GSM modules are casted. In the fishermen vessel RFID reader is fixed and interfaced with controller. Active tags forms two boundaries for identification of neighbouring country intrusion. Figure 6 shows the real time working prototype of the border alert system. If the fishermen gets near to active tag 1, RFID reader detects it and formation is casted via LCD and speaker for alerting the fishermen. Simultaneously, controller sends the exact location of boat through GPS to coastal officials.

Once the alert is given, fishermen need to change direction or sail towards the shore. If the fishermen proceeds further more towards the neighbouring country, active tag 2 gets detected and as a result controller stops the engine through motor drive automatically.

Instead of boat engine, DC motor with relay is interfaced to controller in the prototype. Thus boat is arrested from further movement and again latitude and longitude position is transmitted to navy officials by the controller for taking necessary actions.

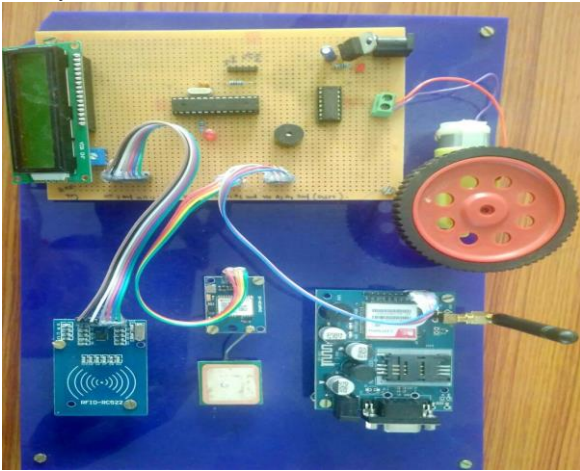


Figure 6 Real Time Working Prototype of Alert System

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The RFID reader placed in the vessel of the boat detects the active tag 1, when boat gets near and this information is sent to controller. Controller warns the fishermen via output devices present in the boat and GSM/GPS modules sends the information to coastal officials. Figure 7 shows the LCD status for tag 1 detection and Figure 8 displays the GSM message sent to officials via GSM module through controller.



Figure 7 LCD Status for Tag 1 Detection



Figure 8 GSM Message Sent to Officials

If tag 2 is detected by RFID reader, DC motor is turned off automatically by controller through relay unit which resembles boat engine. Hence movement of the boat is restricted and precise position is transmitted to navy peoples thereby fishermen boat is arrested within the nation's border. Figure 9 sketches the exact position of the boat through Google map.

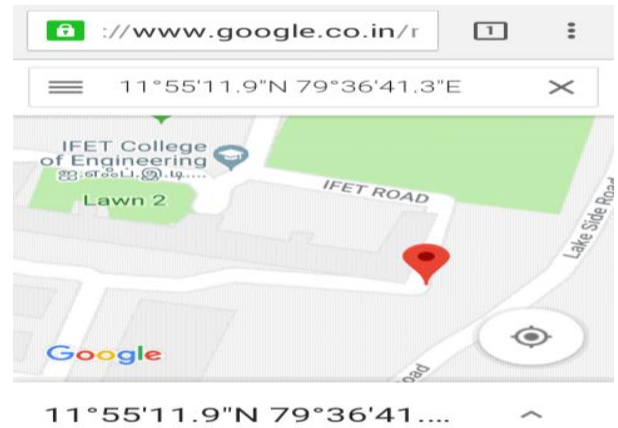


Figure 9 Location Tracking Through GPS

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Huge funding, precautionary steps, political suggestions and coastal area alerts are been made for safe guarding the fishermen's of South-East India. Many ideas have been put forth for solving this serious issue both in technical and non-technical ways. Overcoming the previous system issues, in this proposed model an efficient and simple way of alerting the fishermen is been developed with low cost modern electronic equipment's. Atmega 328 microcontroller with RFID technology functioning at microwave frequency range having wider coverage, precise location tracking and faster data communication is utilized for alert system. Active RFID tags forms two level of boundary scenario within the nation's boundary limit and helps in clear identification of safe fishing zone. NEO-6M GPS and SIM 900A GSM/GPRS module paves the way for precise location identification and information transmission. Open source software for programming atmega 328 and less maintenance of equipment's ensures low cost of the system, providing safe job for fishermen's, thereby reducing the fatal ratio. Future scope can be utilization of controller with even more high computational speed and memory, live telecasting of fishermen movements and installation of repeaters for overcoming the signal power issues in mid of the ocean.

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