

*Citrus Industry Magazine- UF/IFAS SWFREC Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Program
“What’s Shakin” column*

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During the International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting and Handling Systems of Fruits and Nuts, Dr. James English, President and CTO of Energid Technologies Corporation, presented an approach to robotic mass removal of citrus fruit with a focus on cost reduction. Energid Technologies is developing a robotic harvesting system that combines multiple vision cameras with a grid of flexible fruit picking arms. Technical challenges include both identifying the location of fruit using multi-camera vision and controlling the picking mechanisms to remove the detected fruit. The use of many cameras allows more oranges or grapefruit to be found and their location to be identified more accurately, while the use of many pneumatically actuated flexible picking mechanisms allows rapid fruit removal at low production costs. To see Dr. English’s complete presentation please visit our website at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu> and look for the link to the Mechanical Harvesting Symposium.