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Dr Riadh Al-Mahaidi is a Professor of Structural Engineering and Director of the Smart Structures Laboratory at Swinburne University of Technology. He also holds the position Vice President (International Engagement) at Swinburne. Prior to joining Swinburne in January 2010, he was the Head of the Structures Group at Monash University. Over the past 20 years, he focused his research and practice on life time integrity of bridges, particularly in the area of structural strength assessment and retrofitting using advanced composite materials. He currently leads a number of research projects on strengthening of bridges using fiber reinforced polymers combined cement-based bonding agents, fatigue life improvement of metallic structures using advanced composite systems and shape memory alloys. He recently started some projects on collapse assessment of structures through multi-axis hybrid testing. He received a BSc (Hon 1) degree in civil engineering from the University of Baghdad and MSc and PhD degrees in structural engineering from Cornell University in the United States.

To date, Professor Al-Mahaidi published over 220 journal and 250 conference papers and authored/edited 10 books and conference proceedings. He was awarded the 2012 Vice Chancellor's Internationalization Award, the RW Chapman Medals in 2005 and 2010 for best journal publication in Engineers Australia Structural Journal, best paper awards at ACUN-4 (2002) and ACUN-6 (2012) Composites conferences. Prof Al-Mahaidi and his research group won the 2016 Engineers Australia Excellence Award for Innovation, Research and Development (High Commendation) for the Multi-Axis Substructure Testing (MAST) System they built at Swinburne. He was recently awarded the 2017 WH Warren Medal by Board of the College of Civil Engineers of Engineers Australia. He was recently awarded the 2018 ARRB Research Impact Award. This prize is awarded to an individual researcher or research team, whose research, development and implementation efforts have made a significant improvement to operational quality and/or cost in the last 24 months and has therefore achieved considerable impact within the community and industry.