

SINGAPORE

# New photonics institute at NTU promises to light up local research scene

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There will be five research centres in the institute, looking at areas such as creating specialty optical fibre and improving energy efficiency in areas such as LED lighting.

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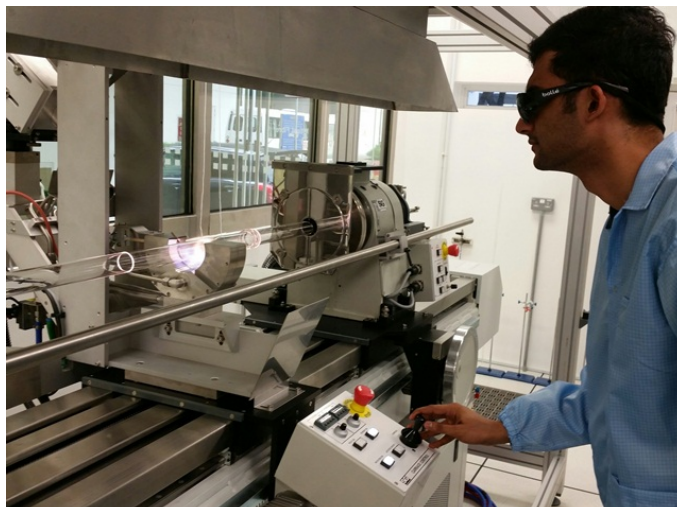


Minister of State for Trade and Industry Teo Ser Luck given a tour around the new photonics institute at Nanyang Technological University. (Photo: Loke Kok Fai)

CAPTION

SINGAPORE: A new photonics institute was launched at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) on Thursday (Oct 30) - and with it, promises of breakthrough innovations that could impact the Internet, lighting and high-precision instruments.

The 4,000-square-metre institute is touted to be one of the largest in the world, and comprises five different research centres related to the fields of photonics and optics. It received more than S\$100 million in funding from industry partners and various national agencies such as the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), DSO National Laboratories and the Economic Development Board (EDB).



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*A researcher operating a Modified Chemical Vapour Deposition lathe, which is used to make preforms that will be turned into glass fibres for optic cables. (Photo: Loke Kok Fai)*

One of the five research centres is the Centre for Optical Fibre Technology (COFT), set up in partnership with the University of Southampton. It will develop technologies in specialty optical fibre, with possible applications in areas such as Internet communications, manufacturing, sensors, biomedical and the military.

Another centre is the LUMINOUS! Centre for Excellence for Semiconductor Lighting and Displays, which will conduct research on ways to balance energy efficiency with sustained quality of light. The findings could then be applied in areas such as LED lighting and mobile and computer screens.

The other three centres are the Centre for Disruptive Photonic Technologies (CDPT), the Centre for Optical and Lasers in Engineering (COLE) and the OPTIMUS! Photonic Centre of Excellence.

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