Nanyang Technological University and the University of Southhampton have jointly launched a $100 million institute to spearhead research in photonics.

The Photonics Institute, housed at NTU, will focus on research involving light technology, found in fibre-optic cables, lasers and consumer goods.

It has five research centres, all of which study photonics and optics.

The institute, which spans 4,000 square metres, has a headcount of 120 scientists.

It's funded by agencies such as A*STAR, the Economic Development Board and the National Research Foundation.