Singapore's first autonomous vehicle test centre opens

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Singapore's first test centre for autonomous vehicles was launched yesterday just outside Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

The 2ha space, which costs $3.6 million to build, will allow the companies developing autonomous vehicle technology here to conduct tests in a safe, controlled and configurable testing environment.

Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Khaw Boon Wan said at the opening: "We aim to develop a progressive set of scenarios that (autonomous vehicle) developers need to master before they can be safely deployed in more complex real-life environments."

The space was jointly developed by the Land Transport Authority, NTU and JTC as part of the Centre of Excellence for Testing and Research of Autonomous Vehicles.

It will be managed by NTU and will replicate road and traffic conditions and is equipped with rain and pedestrian simulators to mimic scenarios such as aggressive driving, cyclists and low-visibility, rainfall conditions.

Seven 360-degree closed-circuit television cameras across the test centre will also stream footage back to a monitoring and evaluating system.

There are at least 10 companies and institutions that are testing autonomous vehicle technology in Singapore.

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