# NTU, HP launch lab on smart factory tech

## $84m lab to focus on areas such as machine learning, cyber security, 3D printing and AI

**Charmaine Ng**

A corporate research laboratory set up in partnership with tech giant HP was officially opened at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) yesterday.

The $84 million laboratory and its team of 100 staff will focus on digital manufacturing technologies, specifically in areas of advancing 3D printing, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, new materials and applications, cyber security and customisation.

The collaboration, which is in line with the national push towards industry transformation, will also include developing an educational curriculum on designing for additive manufacturing. It will cover areas such as data management, security, user experience and business models.

This is HP's first university laboratory collaboration in Asia.

The partnership was inked yesterday by Professor Lam Khin Yong, NTU's vice-president of research, and Mr Shane Wall, HP's chief technology officer and head of HP Labs.

Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat, who is also chairman of the National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF), officially opened the lab. The NRF facilitates setting up corporate labs via public-private partnerships. This is the 13th it has supported and the seventh such lab at NTU.

NRF chief executive Low Teck Seng said: "Corporate laboratories are an integral part of our strategy to anchor joint R&D partnerships between our universities and companies in areas that have direct relevance to the growth of industries in Singapore."

He added that the new lab is significant to the country's long-term competitiveness in the advanced manufacturing sector.

"It will also strengthen our capabilities to support multinational companies for expansion from Singapore into the region," said Professor Low.

NTU president Subra Suresh said the partnership with HP is a significant milestone for NTU as 3D printing, along with adjacent technologies such as AI and machine learning, are integral parts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

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