

New research centres at NTU, Newcastle University

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NANYANG Technological University (NTU) is investing \$90 million in three more research centres, adding to its interactive digital media (IDM) cluster.

Established with the backing of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Media Development Authority (MDA), the centres are part of Singapore's strategy to develop and test-bed new IDM technologies.

NTU's three new research centres will partner international universities, organisations and companies such as the University

of British Columbia, Peking University, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, HP as well as Tencent, China's biggest Internet service provider.

The new centres, together with the other three existing IDM international research centres at NTU, will form a cluster focusing on IDM and new media.

NTU's Professor Freddy Boey said: "These new centres have a dual role – to research new technologies and carry out early test bedding of these research outcomes with our industry partners. In this way, the three research centres will enable businesses in Singapore and the region to bene-

fit from the cutting-edge, next-generation technologies developed by the three centres."

Each centre will focus on a different area of research. The Active Living for the Elderly Research Centre (Lily) will work on creating affordable technologies to help the elderly lead independent lives, while the Multi-platform Game Innovation Centre (Magic) will focus on new products and services for the gaming and digital entertainment space.

Meanwhile, the third centre, dubbed the Rapid-Rich Object Search (Rose) Lab, will develop

search technologies using cloud services.

Over the next five years, about 75 research staff and 74 Masters and PhD students as well as over 20 scientists and engineers will participate in the research projects at these three new centres.

Separately, Newcastle University International Singapore (Nuis) announced yesterday that it plans to launch two research and development (R&D) centres next year. However, the research institution will continue to work out of existing offices at Nanyang Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic, as well as conduct re-

search at partner institutes such as A*Star and Nanyang Technological University.

Established here in 2009, Nuis has been carrying out research in areas such as marine engineering, computing and food manufacturing, having worked with companies and institutes such as Danone, the Singapore Maritime Institute, Nestle and ST Electronics. In the last year, it has landed over \$4 million in funding to fuel research carried out by its 34 academic staff.

Nuis said that it plans to make the "right partnerships" to help Singapore by

contributing translational research and human talent. The two upcoming centres will focus on research to help tackle the city-state's challenges and industrial goals in areas such as science, health as well as maritime and engineering.

Nuis Dean Professor Ehsan Mesbahi said: "By establishing these centres of excellence, Newcastle University is solidifying its model of bridging the gap between academia, industry and government to help create a backbone of talent for Singapore's future."

Nuis may also open "several more" centres of excellence in the coming years.