MAVEN, THE MOBILE AVATAR

NAME:
- MAVEN (Mobile Avatar for Virtual Engagement by NTU)
- "Maven" also means a person with special knowledge or skilful ability

KEY FEATURES & CAPABILITIES:
- Mobile videoconferencing capability

  Real-time face-to-face communication with the aid of LED screen, speakers and microphone.

  Three overhead cameras provide 180-degree frontal vision.

  Mobile and sensor capabilities enable it to move and follow people around, up to a speed of about 5.5 km/h (approximately human walking speed). On-board sensors enable the platform to avoid obstacles.

  Moveable "arms" enable the android to manipulate objects.

  Weight: 50 kg; height: 1.8m tall

  Standard Desktop PC architecture.

  MAVEN successfully integrates telepresence, media and advanced robotic technologies.

  MAVEN enables a person to communicate, interact and move around with people at the android’s location, even though he may be physically miles away. This is as close as to what he would experience being physically present on-site.
MAVEN significantly enhances human communication by taking mobile videoconferencing to a higher level of interactive mobility and sensory experience. It provides a sneak peek into how humans may communicate in the not-too-distant future.

POTENTIAL REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS:

- Working professionals can have real discussions with colleagues, customers or suppliers, no matter where they are, thus raising the productivity of their organisation.

- Health patients who are quarantined can still attend school or work, by using MAVEN to attend lessons or meetings.

- MAVEN also has potential public health, receptionist and even security applications, as it would enable a user to move around, answer questions, view and take videos.

BACKGROUND:

- This is a project under the BeingThere Centre, a new international research centre for telepresence and telecollaboration, established by Nanyang Technological University (NTU, Singapore), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill, USA), and the Media Development Authority of Singapore. The collaboration boasts a team of top scientists across three continents embarking on joint R&D projects to develop telepresence system prototypes for the 21st century.