TODAY

daily focus › education

NTU research centre to boost optical, laser engineering

SINGAPORE — Lowering the cost of medical imaging for tissue and cancer diagnosis is among the areas a new Nanyang Technological University (NTU) research centre will look into as it helps local companies sharpen their edge in optical and laser engineering.

BY KOK XING HUI - 6 HOURS 12 MIN AGO

SINGAPORE — Lowering the cost of medical imaging for tissue and cancer diagnosis is among the areas a new Nanyang Technological University (NTU) research centre will look into as it helps local companies sharpen their edge in optical and laser engineering.

Known as the Centre for Optical and Laser Engineering, the new facility aims to develop commercial applications in the field, which has played a part in the development of microscopes, digital cameras and the optical mouse used for computers over the last decade.

The research will focus on three areas: Computational optics, optical metrology and instrumentation, and laser processing and patterning.

At the launch of the centre yesterday, NTU said seven local companies and one multinational company have signed on as its first industry partners. The new centre has also secured industry and research funding of over S$10 million, bringing its total to S$30 million, the university added.

Optical and laser engineering research will propel the precision engineering and biomedical sectors here to new heights, said research centre director Professor Anand Krishna Asundi.

Precision engineering contributes about 10 per cent of the total output of the manufacturing sector, which currently makes up 22 per cent of Singapore's gross domestic product.

The research centre also aims to develop optical and laser engineers, as it works closely with the Economic Development Board to support the tuition fees of PhD students working on industry projects in home-grown and multinational companies.

To groom talent in this field, NTU started a specialisation in optical engineering in 2011 as part of its Master's Degree programme in Precision Engineering.