



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **NTU Singapore student start-up partners foodpanda to provide on-demand autonomous food delivery**

Whizz Mobility, a student start-up at **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)**, is partnering food and grocery delivery platform **foodpanda** to offer on-demand delivery on campus.

This collaboration taps on Whizz's fleet of self-driving delivery robots called the FoodBot. These semi-autonomous robots will function as delivery riders and will be controlled by a backend operator to accept orders.

Merchants will load food and other items into the robot after confirming the order code displayed on the robot. Once the robot arrives, the user will be required to show the order proof to the camera mounted on the robot to unlock the hatch and collect the order.

This collaboration builds on a successful ongoing pilot that Whizz has been running since June last year with Cates, a food delivery mobile app developed by NTU-incubated start-up Wecome. In the past 10 months, the FoodBots have delivered over 10,000 lunch and dinner orders to designated collection points at selected times on the NTU campus.

The new last-mile delivery partnership with foodpanda will see Whizz extend its delivery hours to serve customers campus-wide from 11am to 7pm daily. With its robots operating for two different food delivery platforms Cates and foodpanda, Whizz is expected to see a four-fold increase in the delivery area covered and the number of customers served, compared to when Whizz first rolled out its FoodBots.

**Whizz founder and third-year student from NTU's flagship Renaissance Engineering Programme Melvin Foo** said: "Our partnership with foodpanda to offer on-demand food delivery on campus is timely given that Singapore is currently trying to curb the number of Covid-19 cases, where takeaways and food delivery is encouraged. It also marks the next phase of development for Whizz, building on the foundation that we have developed with Wecome in the past year. By working with two

different platforms, we hope to continue delivering food to NTU students and faculty on campus in a smarter, safer, and contactless manner during this pandemic.

“As students of NTU serving the campus, we have been feeling a sense of achievement, and it has been an enjoyable journey working alongside peers who are passionate and share the same goal of disrupting last-mile delivery.”

**Luc Andreani, Managing Director of foodpanda Singapore**, said: “As the pioneer of quick commerce, we are always working towards making our delivery processes faster and more efficient to meet evolving customer demands. Our partnership with Whizz Mobility marks an exciting milestone in our journey to shape future-ready operations by expanding our fleet to include these innovative self-driving delivery robots.

“Designed to fulfil last-mile deliveries, FoodBot’s contactless delivery feature also helps us to continue to safeguard our valued riders and customers, especially during the current pandemic. Through this partnership with Whizz, we look forward to better serve students and staff within NTU, while continuing to enhance our processes to deliver food and more even faster and safer.”

The partnership with foodpanda started in May and is expected to run till November, with Whizz to progressively increase its current fleet size of five robots in tandem with demand.

### **A greener and safer delivery option**

The FoodBots developed by Whizz, founded by a group of NTU students, offer a greener, smarter, and contactless alternative to current modes of deliveries.

Each FoodBot is electronically powered and can last multiple days with a single charge. It travels at a safe speed of 5km/h – the average human pedestrian walking speed. Its onboard cameras and algorithms, developed by the NTU students, help it to navigate around people and objects.

The robots are also semi-autonomous. They move on straight and curved paths autonomously, but a supervisor team at Whizz takes over control remotely when it comes to crossing roads to ensure safety.

Whizz is currently made up of a team of 17, with 14 NTU students including Victor Gwee, Zechary Hoe, Herh Peng Leng, Lakshyaheet Dwivede.

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***About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges. It also has a medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, established jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Ranked amongst the world's top universities by QS, NTU has also been named the world's top young university for the past seven years. The University's main campus is frequently listed among the Top 15 most beautiful university campuses in the world and has 57 Green Mark-certified (equivalent to LEED-certified) buildings, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg).