

NTU teams up with NRF and HP to launch US\$61M corporate innovation lab

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The lab will focus on digital manufacturing and 3D printing technologies

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has announced it has partnered with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Hewlett Packard Inc. (HP Inc.) to launch an S\$84 million (US\$61 million) corporate innovation lab.

Called the HP-NTU Digital Manufacturing Corporate Lab, it will focus on developing digital manufacturing and 3D printing technologies. The university lab — HO's first in Asia — will be located at the NTU campus.

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering is one of four strategic technology domains under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2020 Plan, which is Singapore's national strategy to develop a knowledge-based innovation-driven economy and society.

The lab will be manned by 100 researchers and staff will focus on advancing 3D printing, AI, machine learning, new materials and applications, cybersecurity and customisation.

At launch, the lab will prioritise 15 projects to better understand three areas:

- **New materials and applications:** advanced polymers for manufacturing applications, the development of bioprinting models toward printing viable tissues, and 4D printed smart systems that adapt shape with temperature change;
- **Artificial intelligence and machine learning:** helping printers autonomously predict and resolve issues;
- **Cybersecurity:** research to improve end-to-end point security infrastructure and malware mitigation.

The collaboration will also include developing educational curriculum on designing for Additive Manufacturing – covering areas such as data management, security, user experience and business models.

“The HP-NTU Digital Manufacturing Corporate Lab will significantly deepen our involvement here and serve as a nucleus for this ecosystem. We are proud to collaborate with NTU and we are looking forward to this becoming a blueprint for innovation, collaboration and economic progress,” said Dion Weisler, CEO and President, HP Inc, in an official press statement.

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“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,” said NRF CEO Professor Low Teck Seng.

“The HP-NTU Digital Manufacturing Corporate Laboratory is significant to our long-term competitiveness in the advanced manufacturing sector, and ensures that we stay relevant in the Fourth Industrial Revolution that is evolving and growing rapidly worldwide,” he added.

[An earlier version of the article incorrectly stated dollar value of the HP-NTU Digital Manufacturing Corporate Lab as US\$84 million. It should have been S\$84 million (US\$61 million)]

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