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Singapore launches 3D printing research centre for medical implants

26 May 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

Singapore: With an objective to bring revolution in customized knee and bone implants, Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has launched a 3D printing research centre for medical devices and tissue printing with an investment of USD30 million.

The printing research centre, NTU Additive Manufacturing Centre (NAMC), was officially launched by Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and National Development.

NTU also signed a USD5 million joint laboratory agreement with SLM Solutions, one of the prominent manufacturers of 3D printers. Named as SLM Solutions@NAMC, the lab aims to develop next-generation 3D printers which can print much larger parts than today's printers and new types of materials. It will also develop platforms that can print multiple materials in one single build.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said additive manufacturing is a revolutionary technology that is changing the face of innovation and that NTU is well placed to excel in the fast growing field.

"Although we are a young university, NTU is already leading with two decades of research and development in this field," Prof Andersson said.

"Our new additive manufacturing centre not only aims to collaborate with industry to develop innovative, practical solutions but also brings together the best talents in the field. The new centre is outfitted with the latest 3D printing machines, such as laser-aided machines for printing metal parts for industry and bio-printers which are able to print real human tissue," he said.

NTU's new additive manufacturing centre aims to keep Singapore at the forefront of 3D printing technologies and is supported by the Singapore Economic Development Board.