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Singapore invests S$10 M to enable use of AI-based assistive technologies for human tasks

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S$10 million joint lab integrates technology and social sciences for research outcomes that support and enhance lives in Singapore



The Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) have established a Joint Lab in Social and Human-Centred Computing to build globally competitive research capabilities for Singapore to address people-centric issues in the human health and potential, and the urban solutions and sustainability domains.

This multidisciplinary effort will harness complementary strengths from both organisations to conduct research that integrates social sciences and humanities disciplines with advances in computational intelligence and digital technologies.

The joint lab will begin with two key research focus areas: computational social science, and human-AI synergy with a view to benefit policy-makers and social agencies, and enable the use of AI-based assistive technologies for human tasks. The capabilities developed are also relevant for industry interested in market research and understanding consumer opinion, or companies working in health and social care ranging from startups to multinational companies.

For human-AI synergy, A*STAR's Institute for Infocomm Research (I2R), IHPC and SMU will combine their expertise in AI, particularly natural language processing, computer vision and cognitive AI, to develop more advanced AI algorithms for human-intent comprehension through natural verbal, visual and gestural cues.