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More Early-Stage Support for Robotics and Hardware Startups

New Robotics Centre at LaunchPad @ one-north to support robotics & automation startups and promote robotics usage and industry adoption in Singapore

Singapore, 23 March 2018 – Startups in the robotics and automation space will now have greater access to support services, innovative technologies and networks from Singapore's startup community.

The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), a national private sector-led organisation to help drive entrepreneurship in Singapore, and the Advanced New Technology Incubator (ANTI), the corporate venture arm of PBA Group, an integrated provider of motion control, robotics and automation products, have collaborated to mark the launch of the LaunchPad Robotics Centre. The Centre was launched today by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development, who is also ACE's Patron.

The Centre is situated at JTC LaunchPad @ one-north, the heart of Singapore's startup ecosystem hub. The community at LaunchPad houses about 800 startups and more than 50 incubators from a diverse range of industries. Majority of the companies based here are in the InfoComm and Media sector, and other industries include Engineering, Biomedical, Financial Technology and Urban Solutions.

On top of the resources and support provided to startups, the Centre will aim to generate greater awareness among companies and seed interest about robotics among individuals. The Centre includes a display area that will showcase different robotics and automation solutions throughout the year. As part of the tour during the event, Dr Koh was introduced to PBA Group's Golden Retriever Automated Robot (AMR) systems, a patent-pending technology designed for transporting items within production, warehouse, fulfillment and distribution centres at a fraction of the cost of existing competitors.

Mr Derrick Yap, Chief Executive Officer of PBA Group, commented: "The LaunchPad Robotics Centre will be an integral part of our efforts to drive the development of the robotics and automation ecosystem in Singapore. The initial phase of being a robotics startup tends to be the most difficult, and we are excited to work with ACE in providing the support required to help these companies succeed. The display of innovative technologies and solutions will also help to encourage greater industry awareness and developments integral to driving greater overall adoption".

Mr Edmas Neo, Executive Director of ACE, said: "As the national private sector-led organisation supporting the growth of Singapore's startup community, ACE is delighted to be working closely with PBA Group, a company with a vast amount of experience in the robotics sector, to help spur the growth and development of more automation focused startups in the ecosystem. This comes at an opportune time as the expected acceleration in growth of the



global robotics landscape will present many opportunities for many of our startups here to thrive and flourish.”

As part of the collaboration, ACE will provide business-related support and mentorship for the startups, while PBA will provide industry-specific expertise, resources and contacts in the sector. Individuals or companies that wish to explore how they might be able to collaborate with or tap on the support provided by the Centre are encouraged to register their interest with ACE.

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About Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE)

The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) is a national private sector-led organisation to drive entrepreneurship and innovation in Singapore.

Launched in 2003 by the Ministry of Trade & Industry and restructured as a private entity in 2014, ACE is supported by the government, under the patronage of Senior Minister of State for Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade & Industry, Dr Koh Poh Koon. ACE's Board of Directors also comprises of experienced entrepreneurs and professionals immersed in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Today, ACE plays a key role in building a dynamic and sustainable startup ecosystem in Singapore. ACE supports startups across all stages and focuses on three strategic areas:

- (i) driving co-innovation between startups and enterprises;
- (ii) helping startups to scale and internationalise;
- (iii) building an access hub of connected ecosystems across countries.

For more information on ACE, please visit www.ace.org.sg.

About PBA Group

PBA group originated from a Singapore-based bearings and mechanical components trading company in 1987. The company has since evolved into a global leader in robotics and automation solutions and is an end-to-end supplier for robotics and industrial 4.0 solutions.

PBA Group engages in research and development, design, manufacturing, trading and marketing of products and services. This includes motion control technologies, manufacturing process technologies, robotics and automation solutions, platforms and subcomponents, special purpose machines, turnkey manufacturing and testing solutions, and system integration services through qualified partners.

PBA's team of scientists and researchers are at the forefront of agile platform development built upon core expertise in motion control technologies, control algorithms, vision systems, robotic design, autonomously guided vehicles, precision stages, direct drive motor technologies, and business enterprise software. PBA has offices in over 10 countries, 30 companies and more than 500 staff across Asia.



ANTI

About ANTI

ANTI is the corporate venture arm of the PBA Group, and focuses on early-stage hardware, robotics and automation companies via the following activities: (1) Venture Capital: ANTI provides funding at the Seed, Pre-A and Series A rounds; (2) Venture Build: ANTI identifies problem statements that can be improved via the use of robotics and automation, and assembles teams to develop products and solutions around these problems; (3) Incubation of early-stage teams and ideas.

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Information on the LaunchPad Robotics Centre

The LaunchPad Robotics Centre is a collaboration between ACE and ANTI* to promote robotics usage and industry adoption in Singapore. The Centre also aims to support robotics and automation startups, by providing access to shared services and prototyping facilities, mentorship, and co-working space.

Located at Blk 75 Ayer Rajah Crescent, the Centre is a ~1,600 sq foot facility, and is currently utilized as follows:

1. **Robotics Display Area:** A showcase for robotics and automation products and solutions for industry and trade visitors, to encourage industry enquiries and adoption. Showcased products are rotated on a periodic basis.
2. **Co-Working Space:** The Centre hosts and provides co-working and hot desking space to hardware, robotics and automation startups.
3. **Maker Space:** The Centre provides a selected range (due to space constraints) of on-site tools and equipment, including plastic 3D printers, hand tools, electronics components, and meters/scopes. In addition, the Centre can facilitate access to off-site equipment and services at PBA and a range of fabricators and prototyping houses, including 3D printing (plastic and metal), CNC machining, laser and water jet cutters, aluminium profiles, etc. The Centre is also able to connect startups with a wide range of robotics vendors including ABB, Kawasaki, Universal Robotics, etc.