

# Robots could make tiling floors 'four times as efficient'

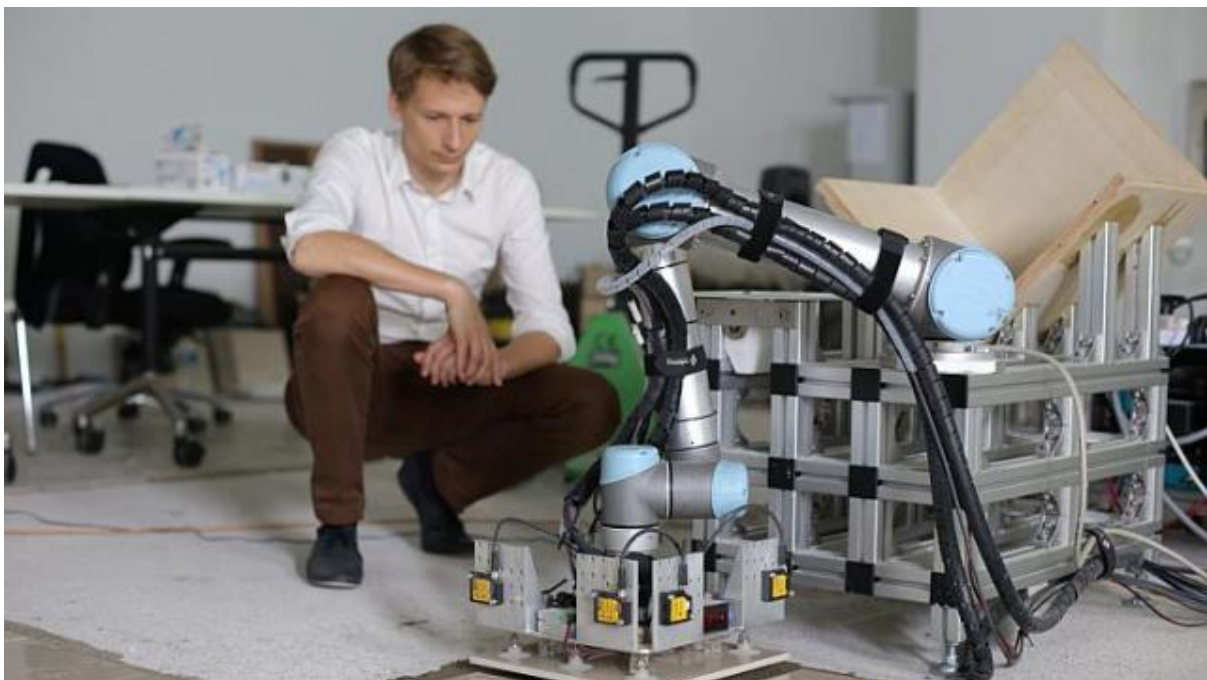
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By Janice Heng

Tiling floors is "one of the most labour-intensive processes in construction", but a new robot being developed here could make this four times as productive, National Development Minister Khaw Boon Wan revealed in a blog post on Tuesday.

Researchers at the Singapore-ETH Centre Future Cities Laboratory (FCL) and ROB Technologies have come up with the prototype for a robot that lays floor tiles.

While it does this menial task, its human counterparts can "focus on higher-value added work such as refilling and grouting the tiles, and cutting odd-size tiles to fit the corner," said Mr Khaw.

The project is still at the research stage but if the robot becomes commercially available, it should be able to lay tiles two to three times faster than humans.



Tobias Bonwetsch, a team member that worked on the prototype, looks on as he gives demonstrates the capabilities of the robotic tiling machine. -- ST FILE PHOTO: ONG WEE