



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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Mars-bound technology adds humanoid touch to key trade event

Robotics technology bound for Mars will be showcased at a flagship trade event in New Delhi this week.

World-leading experts from the University of Edinburgh are to spotlight recent advances they have made to support future missions by the US space agency, NASA.

India-born Professor Sethu Vijayakumar will put one of Edinburgh's miniature humanoid robots through its paces at the UK-India Tech Summit from 7 to 9 November.

The mini machine will perform a range of tasks that mimic the capabilities of the much larger Valkyrie robot, which Edinburgh researchers are developing for trips to Mars.

Weighing 125kg and standing 1.8m tall, Valkyrie will enable breakthroughs in humanoid control, motion planning and perception.

Delegates at the New Delhi event will watch the diminutive wi-fi enabled humanoid walk, lift objects and even kick a miniature football.

Professor Vijayakumar, who is Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Robotics, will also demonstrate a multi-function prosthetic hand? developed at Edinburgh.

The Summit will also spotlight high-speed internet technology developed by engineers at the University of Edinburgh, which is set to benefit millions of people across the world.

The pioneering technology – known as LiFi – is transmitted using light waves from commercially available LED bulbs instead of existing radio technology.

Its inventor, Professor Harald Haas from the University's School of Engineering, will demonstrate its potential to delegates.

The UK-India Tech Summit is India's biggest technology event, which enables leaders, businesses and researchers explore the possible technology collaborations.

Edinburgh, one of the UK's leading universities, will showcase its research excellence in medicine, science and the humanities with a delegation visiting Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Ranked among the top universities in the world

Academics will also hold lectures and meetings on other research topics, including wildlife conservation, politics and development.

Edinburgh has links with a number of Indian universities including the National Centre for Biological Sciences, the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Kerala Veterinary & Animal Sciences University.

The University of Edinburgh's India Institute and its India Liaison Office in Mumbai seek to extend ties with India by encouraging research collaborations and academic exchanges.

Links between the University and India date back nearly 250 years. Professor William Robertson, Edinburgh's Principal from 1762 to 1793, wrote one of the earliest European texts to focus on India. Edinburgh's first Indian student graduated in 1876 and, by the 1920s, its Indian student population was greater than that of any other British university.

The Principal of the University of Edinburgh, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea said: "Quote in here. Quote in here."

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