

AI to be used to tackle rat problem

A research laboratory and an innovative pest control company will use artificial intelligence (AI) to study data from rodent sensors to better manage rodent problems in shopping malls.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed yesterday between Pestech Holding and Singapore Management University (SMU), beginning a two-year collaboration between Pestech and an SMU research laboratory – LiveLabs Urban Lifestyle Innovation Platform.

Under the MOU, Pestech will contribute its collected data on which shopping malls have rodent activity, and where the rodents are most active in the malls. It has rodent sensors in

more than 10 malls around Singapore.

Pestech's infrared sensors are installed in the malls' ceilings above food and beverage tenants and common ceiling space shared by tenants to detect the rats' movements.

LiveLabs' AI programming will be used to analyse the data and provide more accurate details, such as identifying the different rodent species, the number of rodent clusters and the unique behaviours of each species, such as feeding and movement patterns.

"Instead of having to wait through the night to catch the rodents, they can use the algorithm and the data provided by our AI to predict the exact places and timings that the rodents will likely be at," said a LiveLabs spokesman.

The data will provide hourly and daily trends of the rodents' locations and behavioural patterns, allowing LiveLabs to suggest the most appropriate pest control methods.