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AI-powered robot helps combat COVID-19 virus in commercial facilities

BY APSM ON JUNE 2, 2021

AUTOMATION, INFORMATION, MACHINE LEARNING, ROBOTICS, SECURITY

Robotics company **SoftBank Robotics Singapore(SBRSG)**, Asia-Pacific Headquarters of SoftBank Robotics Group, has today announced a new partnership with Australian pathogen mitigation company, **GERMii**, to help eradicate the COVID-19 virus in Australia, with the launch of a 2-in-1 automated commercial floorcare cleaning and disinfection solution **GERMii UV-C** for **Whiz**.



The partnership sees SoftBank Robotics Singapore (SBRSG) combine the capabilities of its AI-powered flagship robot vacuum cleaner, **Whiz**, with **GERMii**'s unique ultraviolet-C (UV-C) technology that kills COVID-19 bacteria on contact. **GERMii**'s collaboration with **Whiz** allows the robotic device to capture and kill pathogens both on the floor and in the air by harnessing UV-C technology to sterilise its path. This solution is already in use in a number of sites around Australia and is being embraced by both the cleaning services companies and their customers thanks to its ability to inactivate not only the COVID-19 virus, but all known, everyday viruses and pathogens such as gastro, influenza and *Staphylococcus aureus* (golden staph). Furthermore, while **Whiz** autonomously cleans and sterilises floors, it frees up cleaning staff to be able to wave the **GERMii UV-C** handhelds across high touch areas such as elevators, workstations and electronics to instantly sterilise surfaces against COVID-19 and other viruses and bacteria.

Australian innovator **GERMii** specialises in the application of proven UV-C sanitisation or sterilisation technology designed, engineered and locally manufactured in Australia. **GERMii**'s pioneering technology has enabled the sterilisation of high-risk, unventilated areas such as aeroplanes in an unmatched 12 minutes, and hotel quarantine rooms in just five minutes.

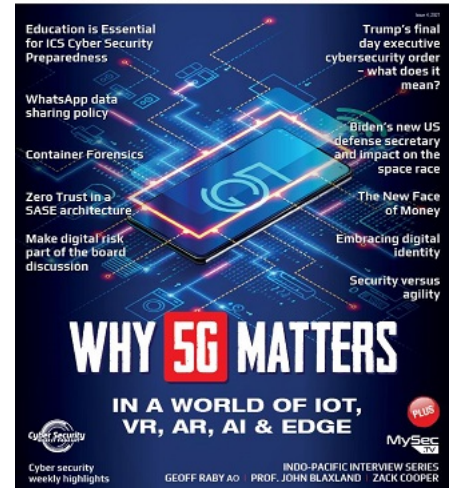
Whiz works autonomously, allowing cleaning staff to focus on other higher value tasks while removing the cleaning staff of laborious large-scale cleaning and delivers cleanliness consistency in floor cleaning standard.

Mr Kenichi Yoshida, Chief Business Officer at SoftBank Robotics Corp. shared "We are extremely proud to be collaborating with an Australian-born innovator in the fight against COVID-19 in region. Our flagship robot, **Whiz**, in partnership with **GERMii**, will help tackle the real risks Australians face every day in quarantine hotels and other high-risk areas. With a heightened focus on eliminating any transmission from quarantine hotels and international flights, we are committed to plugging this gap by eradicating pathogens directly at the source to save time and help cleaners focus on areas unreachable by machines."

"This marriage of two best-in-class products will be instrumental in the eradication of the COVID-19 virus in Australia." Harold Van Haltren, CEO at **GERMii** shared. "Although UV-C isn't a new technology, pre-COVID it was inefficient at removing bacteria from surfaces due to its low, slow exposure times. Driven to rid Australia of COVID-19, the **GERMii** team has developed a design that allows the mobilisation of UV-C, enabling effective sterilisation in just seconds rather than hours. Our mobile device can now be bolted onto **Whiz** to create an incredibly powerful AI-

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