

'Medibot' to do rounds on Malaysian virus wards

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'Medibot' is mounted with a camera and screen via which patients can communicate remotely with medics

Malaysian scientists have created a barrel-shaped robot on wheels that they hope will make the rounds on hospital wards to check on

coronavirus patients, reducing health workers' risk of infection.

"Medibot" is a 1.5 metre tall (five foot) white [robot](#), equipped with a camera and screen via which patients can communicate remotely with medics.

The invention, built by scientists at the International Islamic University Malaysia, is also fitted with a device to check patients' temperatures remotely.

It is aimed at helping nurses and doctors working on the wards with [social distancing](#), Zulkifli Zainal Abidin, a member of the team behind the invention, told AFP.

It cost about 15,000 ringgit (\$3,500) to develop, and the university plans to trial it soon in their own private [hospital](#), which does not treat virus patients, said Zulkifli.

If that proves a success, the scientists hope it can be used in government hospitals where people with COVID-19 are sent.

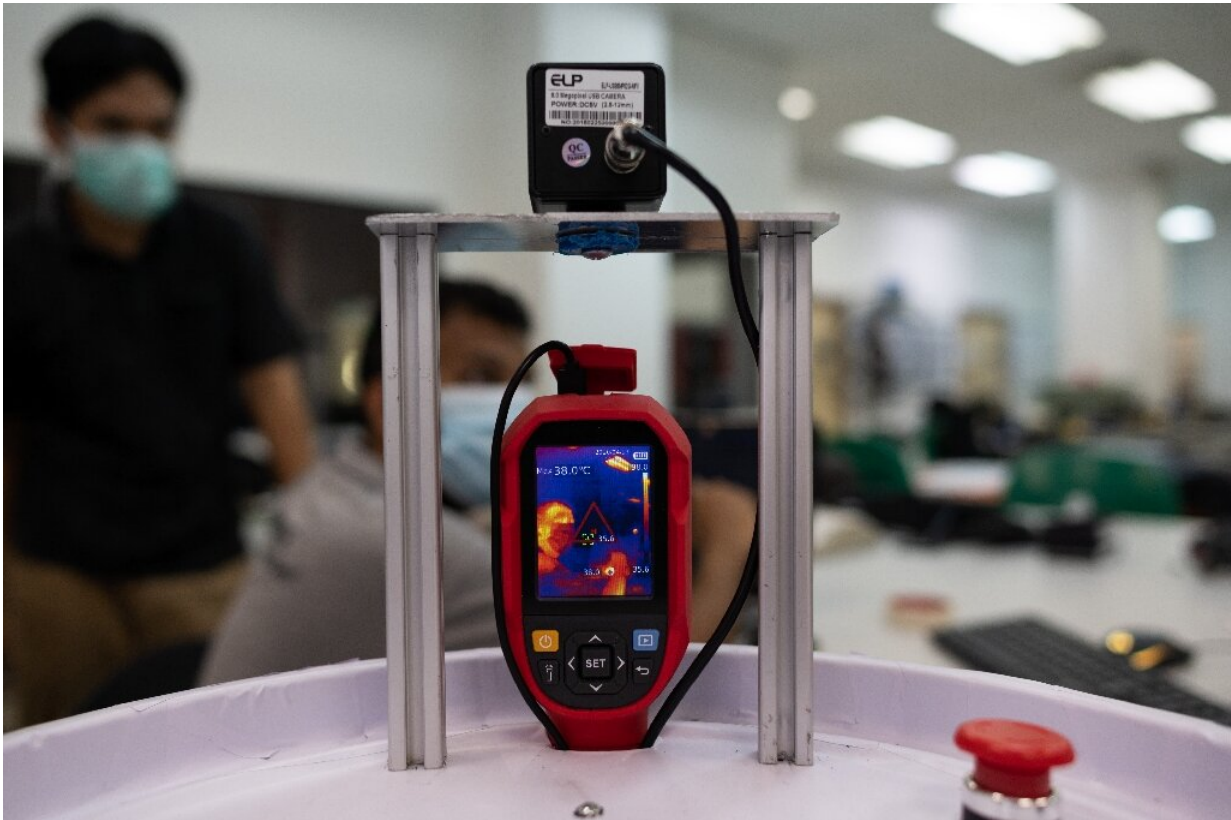
Malaysia has reported 4,683 coronavirus cases, including 76 deaths.

From Thailand to Israel, robots are being used in the fight against the coronavirus, which has killed over 110,000 people worldwide.

They are being increasingly relied on as fast, efficient, contagion-proof champions in the war against the virus.



The robot was built by scientists at the International Islamic University Malaysia



The invention is also fitted with a device to check patients' temperatures remotely

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