

NEW ROBOT SIBLINGS ARRIVE AT LTU

Matilda and Jack, NEC's renowned communication robots housed at La Trobe University are pleased to welcome two new exciting siblings to their family.



Prior to arriving in Australia, the latest additions spent 80 days travelling the world receiving modifications including an increase in size and a modern makeover before they reached their new home down under.

Dr Rajiv Khosla, Associate Professor in Management and Director of the Research Centre for Computers, Communication and Social Innovation (RECCSI) announced that the new additions, one male and one female, are named Charles and Sophie after Charles La Trobe and his first wife.

RECCSI, one of the most innovative research centres in the country, conducts research into aged care and human resource management with the emotionally intelligent robots. The new siblings will be used for future trials in nursing homes as well as supporting elderly people in their own homes.

Like Matilda and Jack, the new robots will help elderly members of society remain independent and connected with their friends and the community in addition to reminding them about their daily activities and medications.

The robots can read human emotions by analysing facial features and body language and are wirelessly programmed to notify nurses if an elderly patient is distressed, injured or requires help.

Dr Khosla provided colleagues with a sneak peek of what the new siblings look like. The rosy-cheeked robots are green and orange, but Dr Khosla gave no indication of which was the female and which was the male.

'I will let you pick who's who,' said Dr Khosla.

To further develop their human communication skills, the robots are looking for new people to interact with and are available as tutors, admin assistants or just for a chat. Anyone interested in meeting the robots is welcome to contact RECCSI via their website.

MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the RECCSI robots can be found at:

latrobe.edu.au/reccsi