

PREMIUM

'Swans' keep eagle eye on reservoirs' water quality



The remote-controlled robot swans are equipped with cameras, probes and sensors, and can be deployed to analyse water samples and take photos of events above the water. PHOTO: PUB



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From this month, five robotic swans will be gliding across some of Singapore's reservoirs to monitor raw water quality in real time.

Called Smart Water Assessment Network or Swan, these remote-controlled robot swans - designed to look like the real birds - were jointly developed by national water agency PUB, and the Environmental Research Institute and the Tropical Marine Science Institute of the National University of Singapore.

The robot swans, equipped with cameras, probes and sensors, can be deployed to analyse water samples and take photos of events above the water, while remaining pleasing to the eye as they propel themselves across the water.

PUB says the robot swans will help it to better understand the conditions in a reservoir and enhance response time to "emerging events" at the swans' locations.

The swans, however, will not be replacing PUB's daily regime of visually inspecting reservoir water and collecting water samples for laboratory testing.

Rather, they will help provide real-time data, such as the water's temperature and amount of dissolved oxygen, even in inaccessible locations.

The five swans will each be deployed in the Marina, Pandan, Punggol, Serangoon and Kranji reservoirs.

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