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## Uber snaps up AI startup Geometric Intelligence, forms Uber AI Labs

Uber AI Labs joins Uber's Advanced Technologies Center (ATC) in Pittsburgh, which houses a team of engineers and researchers working to further Uber's self-driving car project.

By [Natalie Gagliardi](#) for [Between the Lines](#) | December 5, 2016 -- 17:22 GMT (09:22 PST) | Topic: [Artificial Intelligence](#)


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*Uber's self-driving vehicle on the streets of Pittsburgh.*

Uber is bolstering its already ambitious tech-development strategy with the acquisition of New York-based [Geometric Intelligence](#). The ride-hailing service will use the AI startup to launch a new research unit, dubbed Uber's AI Labs, in San Francisco.

In a [blog post](#), Uber said the new AI Labs division will focus on "cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence and machine learning," with 15 employees from Geometric Intelligence forming the initial core of the group.

Uber AI Labs joins Uber's Advanced Technologies Center (ATC) in Pittsburgh, which houses a team of engineers and researchers working to further Uber's self-driving car project.

It's likely that the new AI team will also work on the computational challenges of autonomous vehicles, but its research will aim to extend the technology more broadly.

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vehicles, but its research will aim to extend the technology more broadly.

Machine learning, the concept of training large-scale AI networks to teach and improve themselves over time, is already used by Uber to route drivers, respond to supply and demand, and to calculate its carpooling product uberPOOL.

"With all of its complexity and uncertainty, negotiating the real world is a high-order intelligence problem," writes Uber chief product officer Jeff Holden. "It manifests in myriad ways, from determining an optimal route to computing when your car or UberEATS order will arrive to matching riders for uberPOOL. It extends to teaching a self-driven machine to safely and autonomously navigate the world, whether a car on the roads or an aircraft through busy airspace or new types of robotic devices."

Uber's latest purchase follows up its [purchase of Otto](#), a startup focused on autonomous trucks, back in September. Combined, both deals hint at Uber's ambition to become an all-around transport company built on sophisticated, new-age technology. Uber today is focused on being a marketplace for rides via drivers operating in the gig economy -- Uber in the future could look more like a Google, Apple, or Microsoft.

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## ASX-listed Oventus Medical opens 3D printing facility with CSIRO

The Australian medical device company has launched its new 3D printing facility at CSIRO's Victorian site to combat sleep apnoea.



By [Asha McLean](#) | December 9, 2016 -- 00:45 GMT (16:45 PST) | Topic: [Innovation](#)



Brisbane-based Oventus Medical has opened a new 3D printing facility at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) Clayton, Victoria campus.

The facility builds on an existing partnership between Oventus and CSIRO, and will see the publicly-traded company produce its O2Vent device, a customisable, 3D-printed titanium mouthguard designed ensure optimal airflow and reduce the effects of snoring for sleep apnoea sufferers.

Oventus has been developing O2Vent for almost three years, and an initial prototype of the O2Vent, which completed successful clinical trials, was 3D-printed using CSIRO's 3D printing facility, Lab22.

According to Dr Keith McLean, research director of CSIRO manufacturing, the collaboration between

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Australian researchers and industry is paving the way for innovation in 3D design and production processes, as well as the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea.

"Combining our research team's additive manufacturing experience with the software capabilities of CSIRO's Data61, meant we could create a one-stop in-house process for making personalised mouth pieces that are individualised for each Oventus customer," McLean said in a statement.

"Additionally, we have been able to help Oventus upscale their manufacturing process to allow large volume manufacturing of the devices at the Clayton facility."

Oventus landed on the Australian Securities Exchange in July, following a [AU\\$12 million initial public offering](#).

At the time, the company said the raised capital will be used to commercialise and distribute its O2Vent device, which received Food and Drug Administration approval in the United States in April this year. Oventus is set to launch into the United States market in early 2017, with the company noting over 37 million people regularly suffer from snoring in the US alone.

CSIRO's Lab22 was previously responsible for helping Melbourne-based medical device company Anatomics [3D-print a titanium sternum and rib impact](#) for a 54-year-old Spanish man.

The patient needed his sternum and a portion of his rib cage replaced due to a chest wall sarcoma, a type of tumour that grows in and around the rib cage. The CSIRO said at the time the patient's surgical team knew the surgery would be difficult due to the complicated geometries involved in the chest cavity, and decided the customisable 3D-printed sternum and rib cage was the best option.

Once the prosthesis was complete it was sent to Spain and implanted into the patient. According to the CSIRO, 12 days after the surgery the patient was discharged and recovered well.

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