

Meet Bob the robotic security guard - made by the University of Birmingham

The metal minder patrols corridors at an office of security firm G4S

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Boffins at the [University of Birmingham](#) have created a robot security guard – but just don't ask it to climb the stairs.

Named Bob, the metal minder patrols the corridors at the Gloucestershire offices of security firm G4S.

He is even capable of making his own decisions, just like his human colleagues.

The robot maps and navigates the environment, identifying desks, chairs and other objects he must negotiate.



Bob the robot at the University of Birmingham with expert researcher in autonomous robots and artificial intelligence Dr Nick Hawes and a Dalek

And when Bob runs low on battery power, he can even move himself to a docking station to recharge.

Creator Dr Nick Hawes, from the [School of Computer Science at the University of](#)

Birmingham said: 'We wanted to build an autonomous intelligent robot that can be put into a real world scenario like a place of work.'

Trailer for the British Science Festival

"Current robots aren't very good with their hands, or able to manipulate objects.

"But Bob is good at driving around and monitoring objects.

"He is perfect for a job in security as a night or day watchman where he can monitor what is going on in his immediate surroundings.

"We want to see Bob survive on his own for up to 15 days, doing jobs that are useful for security, for example, checking whether fire doors are obstructed, whether there is paper on desks."



University of Birmingham expert researcher in autonomous robots and artificial intelligence Dr Nick Hawes

Bob is part of the £7.2 million STRANDS project where robots will learn how to act intelligently and independently in real-world environments.

Bob's 'brother' called Werner, is set to start work in an Austrian care home where he will play simple games with residents in the home.

But David Ella, Technology VP Product Marketing for G4S, insisted Bob and his robot friends would not be taking over human jobs.

He said: "The STRANDS project isn't going to produce a robot which can replace a human, but what it is going to do is support the security team by adding an additional patrolling resource.

"Our human security officers carry out a very wide range of different tasks, many requiring on-the-spot decision making and the ability to react to unpredictable fast changing events."

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