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MULTI-SENSOR AND APP COULD HELP INDIVIDUALS DETECT HEALTH PROBLEMS EARLY

 SPORT & FITNESS

The Scanadu Scout is a palm-sized device that is packed with sensors to aid individuals in detecting a number of health conditions early.

Making it easier to monitor patients' vital signs not only helps warn healthcare professionals of potential conditions, but also reduces the burden on healthcare systems, as the [VISI Mobile System](#) has demonstrated. Designed to help individuals keep track of their own health, the [Scanadu Scout](#) is a palm-sized device that is packed with sensors to aid the early detection of a number of conditions. The idea behind the innovation is inspired by the fictional 'tricorder' – a device in the Star Trek series that can scan and collect data about living things. By placing the Scanadu Scout to their forehead for around ten seconds, users can get detailed information about their heart beat and ECG, core body temperature, blood oxygen and blood pressure, breathing and emotional state, delivered via Bluetooth to their smartphone. Scanadu is a [Singularity University](#) startup based at NASA Research Park in California and the hardware for the device is based on RTOS Micrium platform, currently being used in the Mars Rover Curiosity mission. However, the current prototype requires clinical trials for accuracy as well as approval from Food and Drugs Administration before it goes to market. The Scanadu Scout has already raised over four times its initial USD 100,000 target in the first week of its [Indiegogo](#) crowdfunding campaign and the team is hoping the device is chosen as the winner of the [Qualcomm Tricorder XPRIZE](#), which would earn them a further USD 10 million to make the tricorder a reality. The video below offers more information about the project:

If successful, the Scanadu Scout could provide individuals with more data about what's going on with their body – helping them to identify the situations that trigger health issues or recognize the onstart of conditions earlier than they could without it. The devices are available to pre-order from USD 199, while the accompanying app will be free to download for both Android and iOS smartphones when the Scanadu Scout ships in March 2014. Are there other ways to make data collection – health-based or otherwise – a pain free process?

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