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Last post for the old-tech letterbox

Phil Jacob

SAY goodbye to the days of a shoebox-sized letterbox on a stick.

With the boom in online shopping growing even bigger, technology company TZ Limited hopes to launch a "smart mailbox" that may one day have more features than a smartphone.

With sensors and a swipe card lock, the "OurPAD" can even control the temperature of items in its care.

But its main purpose is to solve the age-old problem: What to do when the postman calls and you're not home.

TZ executive chairman Mark Bouris yesterday described the automated postboxes as the "postie's best friend".

"By being able to deliver items to your home, this will avoid having to make a trip to the post office to collect goods bought online," he said.

While the device is still a prototype,

Mr Bouris said his company would spend the next year looking for a partner to bring it to market.

"Every year there would be nearly 100 million parcels delivered to homes, of which nearly 40 million are returned to an Australia Post office."

The news comes a month after Australia Post announced changes to its parcel delivery system using TZ Limited's technology.

Australia Post chief executive Ahmed Fahour said the changes would benefit millions of online shoppers.

Customers can collect parcels from an initial 100 extended-hours locations and access 24-hour parcel lockers.

However, Mr Bouris said he hoped "OurPAD" would negate the need to visit Australia Post altogether.

"This is the smartest letterbox in the world. It's the most user-friendly letterbox in the world," he said.



Smart: OurPAD letterbox