3D Audio: We’ve mentioned before how audio needs to catch up to 360° video for a truly immersive virtual reality (VR) experience. VR cinematographers and gamers have expressed to us how they want 360° audio for their art. On the last day of the show, we found a company doing it. Tucked away in the Sands Convention Center, VisiSonics offers its RealSpace™ Audio Panoramic Camera to capture, measure, analyze, and reproduce full dimensional sound. We demoed the product and came away impressed. The technology can integrate with any VR platform, and executives mentioned that it could be integrated into a 360° camera within a year.

Wireless Charging: This was a big theme at CES, and numerous firms displaying their near-field products (i.e. recharging your device on a pad). We saw two companies that can recharge devices over distance. Energous (NASDAQ:WATT) is an IP-licensing firm that is monetizing its WattUp™ technology that can recharge devices over Wi-Fi within a 15-foot radius. Similarly, Ossia demonstrated their Cota wireless technology that can recharge from distances as great as 10 meters. Demos were by appointment only, and we didn’t have any. But both booths were full; the future of wireless recharging presented itself.

Robotics: Since CES is a consumer show, we saw all kinds of robots designed to help around the house. There were dancing robots, talking robots, and even a bartending machine that can mix 300 different drinks. Ecovacs had the most interesting robot; when we arrived at the booth, we couldn’t figure out what a square robot was doing climbing a clear, horizontal panel. It turns out that the robot, named Winbot, cleans windows. This fascinating device dutifully crawled upwards, avoiding parked Winbots, and leaving pristine streakless windows in its wake. Seven Dreamers had a large booth to present Laundroid. The booth was packed, which was odd since Laundroid was not at the show. The Company showed big screen videos and stacks of neatly folded laundry. We asked if Laundroid had folded the laundry. The answer was, “no”.

Blasting off with VR: Krush, a company billing itself as a company that builds “irresistible products that engage and connect” did just that at CES. They presented Moveo, a rotating capsule for simulating VR. Cadets lined up to don space helmets outfitted with Oculus VR head-mounted devices. Once strapped in and after the pilot issued a thumbs-up, Moveo spun above the gathered crowd, trying to induce the pilot to vomit. But before you whip out your credit card to buy one, understand that Moveo is only a concept to demonstrate what VR can become.

Something to think about: This is the end of our CES visit. We didn’t see 80% of the companies we wanted to. We never investigated sports technology or automotive tech. But we heard a lot of people talking about driverless cars, and even saw a company called Nippon Control System that does LiDAR sensing of humans, meaning robots can detect and avoid crashing into humans. What if driverless cars replace traditional driving occupations such as truck drivers, pilots, and taxi drivers? What will happen to those who don’t have alternative skills to fall back upon? PicoCluster presented a 5-node, stackable clusters that contain 5Gb of memory and 20 processors. This allows people the opportunity to explore big data, artificial intelligence, bitcoin mining, and network computing for what could be a few hundred dollars; computer systems that are out of reach for most people are becoming consumer products.
Disclaimers

The information and recommendations made available here through our emails, newsletters, website, press releases, collectively considered as (“Material”) by Sophic Capital Inc. (“Sophic” or “Company”) is for informational purposes only and shall not be used or construed as an offer to sell or be used as a solicitation of an offer to buy any services or securities. You hereby acknowledge that any reliance upon any Materials shall be at your sole risk. In particular, none of the information provided in our monthly newsletter and emails or any other Material should be viewed as an invite, and/or induce or encourage any person to make any kind of investment decision. The recommendations and information provided in our Material are not tailored to the needs of particular persons and may not be appropriate for you depending on your financial position or investment goals or needs. You should apply your own judgment in making any use of the information provided in the Company’s Material, especially as the basis for any investment decisions. Securities or other investments referred to in the Materials may not be suitable for you and you should not make any kind of investment decision in relation to them without first obtaining independent investment advice from a qualified and registered investment advisor. You further agree that neither Sophic, its employees, affiliates consultants, and/or clients will be liable for any losses or liabilities that may be occasioned as a result of the information provided in any of the Company’s Material. By accessing Sophic’s website and signing up to receive the Company’s monthly newsletter or any other Material, you accept and agree to be bound by and comply with the terms and conditions set out herein. If you do not accept and agree to the terms, you should not use the Company’s website or accept the terms and conditions associated to the newsletter signup. Sophic is not registered as an adviser under the securities legislation of any jurisdiction of Canada and provides Material on behalf of its clients pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements that is available in respect of generic advice. In no event will Sophic be responsible or liable to you or any other party for any damages of any kind arising out of or relating to the use of, misuse of and/or inability to use the Company’s website or Material. The information is directed only at persons resident in Canada. The Company’s Material or the information provided in the Material shall not in any form constitute as an offer or solicitation to anyone in the United States of America or any jurisdiction where such offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such a solicitation. If you choose to access Sophic’s website and/or have signed up to receive the Company’s monthly newsletter or any other Material, you acknowledge that the information in the Material is intended for use by persons resident in Canada only. Sophic is not an investment advisory, and Material provided by Sophic shall not be used to make investment decisions. Information provided in the Company’s Material is often opinionated and should be considered for information purposes only. No stock exchange anywhere has approved or disapproved of the information contained herein. There is no express or implied solicitation to buy or sell securities. Sophic and/or its principals and employees may have positions in the stocks mentioned in the Company’s Material, and may trade in the stocks mentioned in the Material. Do not consider buying or selling any stock without conducting your own due diligence and/or without obtaining independent investment advice from a qualified and registered investment advisor.