

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.

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