

Japan's Hitachi creates roller-skating robot (w/ Video)

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A picture shows Japan's electronics giant Hitachi's humanoid robot "Emiew2", 80cm tall and weighing 14kg, which can move over uneven ground and small gaps on its wheeled legs at the company's laboratory in Tokyo. The robot is also equipped with 14 microphones on its helmet which can pick out human voices from background noise.

Japan electronics giant Hitachi unveiled a pint sized roller-skating robot Friday that can negotiate uneven surfaces, respond to voice commands

and could work as a tour guide or security guard.

Dubbed the EMIEW2, the [humanoid](#) has complex spring-loaded shock absorbers in its legs that allow it to move across minor bumps and wires on the floor without tripping, a world-first for a [robot](#) of its kind, the company said.

"It can control its posture the way humans do when we stabilise ourselves after jumping on inline skates," Yuji Hosoda, chief researcher at Hitachi's transportation systems department, said at the robot's Tokyo launch.

The machine, 80 centimetres (32 inches) tall and weighing 14 kilogrammes (almost 31 pounds), has 14 microphones fitted into its helmet that can pick out human voices from background noise such as music or the clatter of footsteps.

Fitted with wheels on its two legs, it moves at a maximum six kilometres (3.7 miles) an hour, a fast walking speed for a human adult.

The red-and-white robot could be used as a receptionist and visitors' guide in office buildings, Hosoda said.

"It could also be used for security, such as patrolling and surveillance as it could find a suspicious person hiding in blind spots out of range of fixed security cameras," he said.

"This adorable EMIEW could lead to a new form of surveillance."

The company has not yet announced plans to commercialise the robot.

The name EMIEW -- although its sounds like Australia's flightless bird the emu -- is in fact short for "excellent mobility and interactive

existence as workmate," Hitachi said.

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