

Funky robots display Japan's latest technologies

October 7 2014, by Haruka Nuga



A TE Connectivity Japan staff member demonstrates how to control remotely its dinosaur robot "TE Saurus" by a smart phone during the annual CEATEC Japan advanced technologies show in Chiba, east of Tokyo Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2014. With a Sharp Aquos ZETA mobile phone model, users can make the 6.5-meter (21 feet, 4 inches) long, 2.1-meter (6 feet, 11 inches) tall dinosaur robot to walk forward and backward, jump, move its head, hands and legs up and down, left and right, open and close its mouth by touching the screen panel and make it bark by shaking the handheld. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

A smartphone-controlled dinosaur, synchronized cheerleaders and a ping pong-playing spider are some of the robot technology showcased at the CEATEC Japan electronics exhibition.

Exhibitors used such attention-grabbing gadgets to showcase their [technology](#) and stand out at the event that started Tuesday. Sadly for gadget lovers, the robots aren't for sale.

A DINOSAUR PAL

TE Connectivity's dinosaur robot, the TE Saurus, lets users experience a close encounter with a 2.1-meter-tall (6-foot-11) reptile without going back in time.

A [smartphone application](#) can make the dinosaur walk or jump. A shake of the smartphone prompts the TE Saurus to bark. TE Saurus also can play trivia games as users answer questions through the app.

PING-PONG COMPANION

Despite its intimidating spider-like resemblance, OMRON Corp.'s three-legged robot is a relaxed [ping pong](#) playmate. It watches its human opponent to predict the ball's path. Still, the robot takes it easy on opponents by missing a few hits here and there. With five motors to control paddle movement, it is programmed to serve the ball in a way that makes it easy for the player to return.

"This ping pong robot is really a demonstration of how a robot can interact with a person and react in an appropriate manner," says Takuya

Tsuyuguchi, an Omron manager. "We envision this robot perhaps being used in a factory or production line and having a role in which it would have to interact with a worker to do or build something. This would involve the robot understanding the needs of its human counterpart and behaving appropriately."

SYNCHRONIZED CHEERLEADERS

They are 36 centimeters (14 inches) tall but their choreography is flawless. Murata Manufacturing, a leading electronic component manufacturer, presents a group of 10 [robot](#) cheerleaders with color-changing pom-poms that use gyroscopic sensors to roll on spherical bases in unison without losing their balance.

"These robots use our proprietary balancing technology combined with technology that prevents, in real time, the robots from clashing together," said Tomoyuki Mori, a Murata engineer. "It also uses technology that coordinates the movement of all the robots together in a synchronized manner."

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