

A Telepresence Robot for Everybody?

Written by Marco Attard
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Telepresence robots are nothing new, but they tend to be aimed at executive boardrooms. Suitable Technologies wants to change that with the Beam+, a consumer version of its own Beam telepresence tool.



The Beam+ looks like a 10-inch iPad on top a 3-wheel motorised mount, and features two 640x480 HDR cameras, 4-microphone array and a "powerful" amplifier. Once connected to the internet it allows users to maneuver around the house in real-time and check what the kids, pets or friends are getting up to while video chatting via included software.

Mind, much like the Daleks regularly giving Dr. Who trouble, the Beam+ cannot actually climb stairs...

"Beam+ gives the home user an affordable and meaningful way to be with the people they love, even when life keeps them apart," Suitable Technologies CEO Scott Hassan says.

However the main feature is the price-- \$1995, somewhat less than the \$16000 required for its older brother, the Beam telepresence robot.

The Beam+ should be available from Q3 2014, and preorders are currently open.

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