

## Panasonic's Companion Robot at CES 2017

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CES the place for companies to show off something weird and wonderful, and Panasonic sticks to tradition with the Desktop Companion Robot-- an egg-shaped robot combining voice recognition with an embedded projector.



The robot stands as tall as a kitchen blender, and acts a bit like a mobile version of Amazon Echo or Google Home speakers. However it is also mobile, since it trundles around on 4 wheels while speaking to users in a cute, almost child-like, voice. On command it can crack open its shell to project video from online sources on any flat surface.

"This test project builds on Panasonic's innovations in robotics including battery and power solutions, vision and sensing, navigation solutions and motion control in a new appealing design," the company says. "This is Panasonic's latest effort in demonstrating network services in a friendly package, and we are showing this robot at CES as a way of obtaining feedback on its features and functions."

Panasonic gives no word as to whether the companion robot will actually be a commercial product, but it always interesting to see what companies can do with the technology at hand.

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