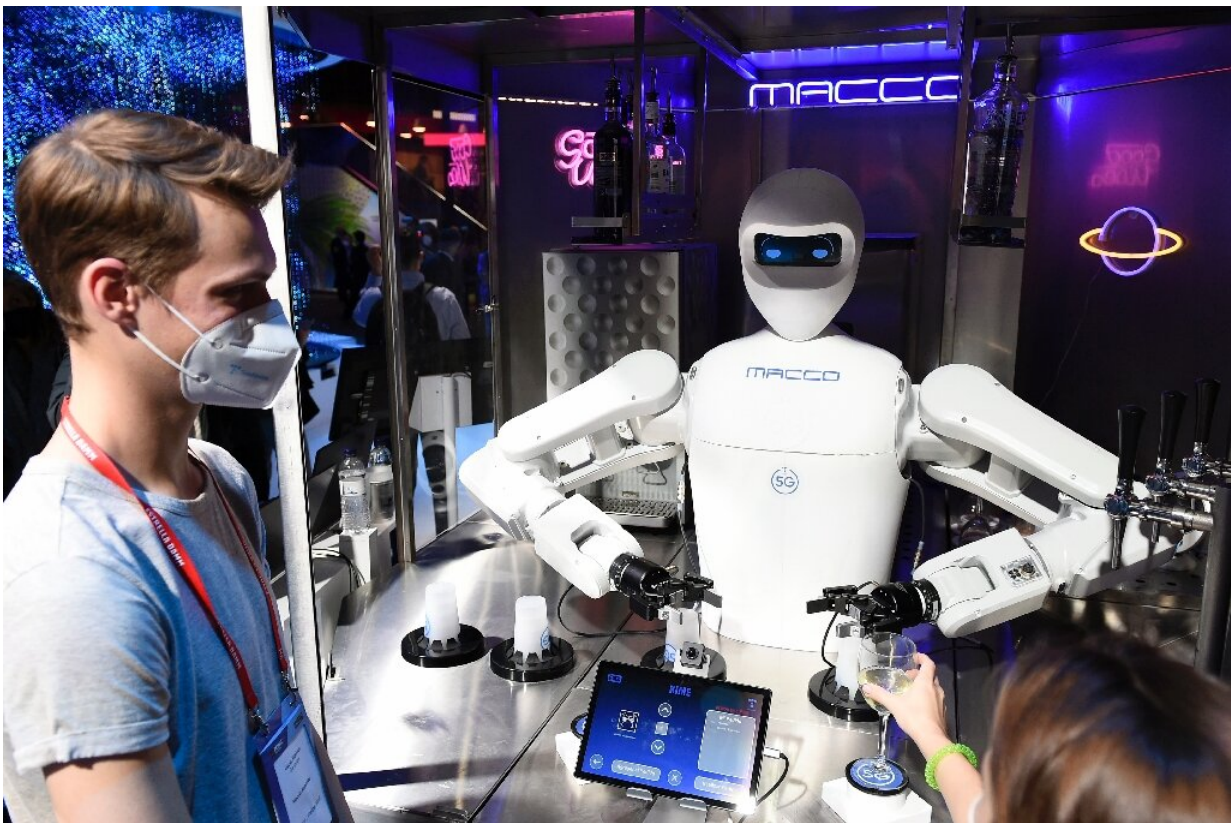


Cyberdog and robo-barman: Spotted at Spain tech congress

March 4 2022, by Valentin Bontemps, Yassine Khiri



A robot bartender developed by Spanish food tech group Macco Robotics serves drinks—but also speaks a dozen languages and recognises customers by their faces.

Phone makers and telecoms firms unveiled a series of gadgets and innovations at one of the industry's biggest get-togethers this week in

Barcelona.

Here is a selection of the most curious objects from the Mobile World Congress.

5G bartender

It shakes a mean cocktail, speaks a dozen languages and recognises its most loyal customers by their faces.

The Kime robot is a "high added value" bartender developed by Spanish "food tech" group Macco Robotics.

Joan Laporta, president of Barcelona football club, was among the robot's customers at the tech gathering this week.

The 5G-enabled [humanoid robot](#) can "work 24 hours a day", according to its manufacturer.

In these Covid-affected times, the robot has another advantage over its human competitors—it avoids "unnecessary contact" and reduces the risks of contamination, the company says.

Virtual disco

No queueing around the block to get in, no security guards at the entrance—just a [virtual reality headset](#) and a booming soundtrack.

On the stand of the South Korean operator SK Telecom, visitors had a lively taste of the metaverse, the immersive version of the internet touted as the centrepiece of the next online generation.

With joysticks in hand, the virtual clubber is plunged into a giant disco ball to dance among other avatars.

This is one of many applications in "Ifland", the operator's very own metaverse, which is designed to "maximise the [user experience](#) across various virtual spaces and avatars".



Visitors look at the Cyberdog robot, cost a cool \$1,600, on Xiaomi's stand at the Mobile World Congress.

Remote car racing

Ever wondered what it would be like to drive a car while sitting more

than 1,000 kilometres from the steering wheel?

French operator Orange is proposing it as one use of the next-generation 5G internet.

Called "Vrombr", this [mobile game](#) created by the young start-up Polyptik allows you to drive real miniature cars via a smartphone.

In the demonstration at the Mobile World Congress, the driver was in Barcelona while the vehicle raced around a track near Paris.

Quick-charging, green battery

Several manufacturers claimed to have developed the fastest smartphone chargers in the world.

China's Realme unveiled a 150-watt charging system for its forthcoming GT Neo 3, which will allow it to recharge its battery to 50 percent in five minutes.

Its competitor Oppo has promised a 100 percent charge in nine minutes thanks to its "Supervooc" 240-watt technology.

Meanwhile, Japanese start-up PJP Eye has unveiled a prototype of an "organic" battery using carbon made from cotton instead of the metals usually used for this type of product.

This technology "allows our batteries to have a long lifespan" and reduces their CO2 emissions, explains Inketsu Okina, the firm's director.

Cyberdog

Low on its legs, its body full of sensors and microphones, the cyberdog can trot close to its owner, bark, hold up its paw and even stand guard.

The robot, shown for the first time outside of China by its creator Xiaomi, is controlled via a mobile phone.

Event though its "brain" is still in an experimental phase utilising open-source programming, Xiaomi has already put 1,000 of them on sale in China—for a cool \$1,600 euros (\$1,800) each.

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