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Artoo-Detoo from Star Wars lands to CES 2019: Tactile Robots unveils first autonomous mobile robot with the sense of touch at CES 2019

LAS VEGAS, 8 JANUARY 2019 – <u>Tactile Robots</u>, a startup based in Lecce, Italy, will unveil the first autonomous mobile robot with the sense of touch at CES 2019.

Just like the very famous R2-D2 from the *Star Wars* saga, this first prototype has been designed to deliver food, drinks, and small goods as part of room service aimed at high-end hotels.

"Touch me and I'll dodge"

"Autonomous robots are inevitably starting to enter hotels, restaurants, airports and shopping malls. However, until now they lacked the level of safety and intuitive interaction needed to operate smoothly in such a densely populated environment," said Riccardo Tornese, co-founder & CEO of the company. "Our robot can navigate in total autonomy, avoiding obstacles. Importantly, users can just slightly nudge it on its surface and it will move out of your way".

"This unique behavior is achieved by the company's proprietary technology," Tornese continues: "a soft, shock absorbing, pressure sensitive skin that covers the entire robot and is highly sensitive to pressure, allowing users to easily interact with the robot just by touching it on its external surface".

"So, not only we're solving the safety and interaction problems, but we are presenting a high-quality product that has all the elements of world-class 'Made in Italy' DNA: great attention to details, superior quality materials and artisanal design. Our robot is a fine piece of Interior design that combines aesthetics and simplicity with functionality," Tornese concludes.





Designed to serve humans

Hotels can now also customize the robot's look and feel by selecting from a wide range of fabric materials and textures. The company's objective is to present an "elegant and functional piece of robotic furniture" personalized so as to be seamlessly integrated in the luxurious interiors of high-end hotels.

That's why the company's pay off sounds no more a Tyrell Corporation's claim for *Blade Runner*'s replicants ad!

The company is now working on a range of different bespoke products for the high-end hospitality industry, and has plans to expand towards different vertical markets in the future, touching upon the consumer market in due time.

Tactile Robot's first Indoor Autonomous Mobile Robot will make its debut in Q2 2019 at an Italian hotel chain which has partnered with the company to deploy the first fleet of luggage carrying robots.

About Tactile Robots

Tactile Robots, founded in 2016 and based in Lecce (Puglia), designs and builds mobile service robots with unprecedented safety and user interaction. The initial goal of the company is to improve the productivity of the HORECA industry by automating repetitive tasks.

For more information, visit www.tactilerobots.com

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