Casinos explore use of robotic dealers

By Daniela Wei, BloombergBusiness

She has an hourglass figure, an unflappable manner and a friendly face. Meet "Min," the robot whose creators say could revolutionize card-dealing in the world's casinos.

The svelte brunette is a prototype of a human-like electronic croupier, which Paradise Entertainment Ltd., a

Hong Kong-based gaming machine manufacturer and supplier, says could cut labor costs and open up new markets for casino operators. While her function is currently limited to dealing cards, planned enhancements could have her recognizing customers' faces and speaking to them in multiple languages, Chairman Jay Chun said.

After making her debut at a gaming show in Macau last month, Min and her clones will initially be introduced in the U.S., where labor costs in casinos are proportionally higher than in Asia and where humans, but not machines, are prohibited in some states from working as croupiers. Paradise is talking to potential overseas buyers, Chun said, declining to say how much the robots will cost.

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