

Honda's new ASIMO robot, more human-like than ever

NEW YORK, USA: It walks and runs, even up and down stairs. It can open a bottle and serve a drink, and politely tries to shake hands with a stranger. Meet the latest ASIMO, Honda's humanoid robot.



The ASIMO robot built by Honda, walks down stairs to a glittering event in Manhattan. Image: [GizMag](#)

"Hello New York! Thank you for coming today!" the little guy chirped in English, the recorded voice of a teenaged boy, at his US debut in a Manhattan hotel.

Resembling a tiny astronaut, ASIMO -- decked out in a white suit and helmet -- stands 1.3m tall and weighs 50 kg.

ASIMO - short for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility - was designed to help people, potentially in cases of reduced mobility. The first model was unveiled in 2000 after 14 years of research during which scientists studied human movements in an effort to replicate them.

The latest demonstration highlighted the robot's increased flexibility and balance, allowing ASIMO to jump. It can use sign language and can run at up to 9 km/h.

Researchers think that one day it could help the elderly, say by getting a snack or turning the lights off - when the elderly person's ability to get around is reduced.

"ASIMO was designed to help those in society who need assistance, and Honda believes that these improvements in ASIMO bring us another step closer to our ultimate goal of being able to help all kinds of people in need," said Satoshi Shigemi, senior chief engineer at Honda R&D, responsible for humanoid robotics.

"We need to understand what people expect from ASIMO and what people want ASIMO to do," Shigemi added.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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