

Tech industry expo opens *portal* to tomorrow

The show must go on.

That *sentiment* couldn't have been stronger this week at CES, the largest consumer electronics convention in the country. The conference, which brought more than 180,000 people to Las Vegas, was a reminder of what the tech industry is best at: being optimistic about itself.

portal 大门

sentiment 感觉; 情绪

The conference offered a *peek* at the year's hottest tech trends, including artificially intelligent virtual assistants, next-generation wireless networks and connected cars.

peek 一瞥

Front and center at CES was the battle between virtual assistants. Aaron Emigh, chief executive of Brilliant, which makes smart home products that work with Alexa, Google Assistant and Siri, said it was critical for virtual assistants to work together, not against one another, because the smart home was already too complex, with products like light switches, *thermostats* and cameras coming from different brands.

front and center 前沿中心

thermostat 恒温器

Wireless carriers and chipmakers highlighted 5G, the next-generation *cellular* network arriving this year in a small number of cities with data speeds so *zippy* that devices can download an entire movie in seconds.

cellular 细胞的; 移动电话

zippy 敏捷的

Car manufacturers like Mercedes-Benz and BMW showed off concepts of autonomous vehicles powered by AI and 5G wireless connections. Smarter cars with features like built-in voice assistants to help people use maps, play music or get a sports update without taking their eyes off the road are available now.

Matt Strauss, a Comcast executive, was especially **bullish** about the year ahead. He said just about everything announced at CES required an Internet connection, so that's the last thing that people would cut off.

bullish 乐观的；看涨的

"It's become like oxygen," he said.