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# GAMES & Technology

## UK online firms profit as gambling goes mainstream

BY FRED FAUST

**T**he slow progress of the massive reform of gambling laws in the United Kingdom makes headlines in Las Vegas, whose major casino firms are placing big bets on the country's easing of antiquated restrictions. But even now, before the reform gets through Parliament, UK companies are doing a healthy business in combining two elements that drive U.S. anti-gambling zealots crazy — sports betting and Internet betting.

When the British talk about betting, they mean sports and race betting. When they talk about gambling, they mean casino

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games. The former is legal on the Internet; the latter is expected to be made legal as part of the reform package.

To run a legal online betting site, an operator has to get a bookmakers license and a license to offer telephone betting. The relevant laws were enacted before the computer age, so the Internet is interpreted legally as an extension of the telephone.

A telephone betting license "is not that hard to get," said Steve Donoghue, chief executive of The Gambling Consultancy Ltd. in London. The Gaming Board for Great Britain regulates gambling, but not betting, Donoghue said, adding, "Basically betting and bookmakers are regulated by the police, not that the police ever regulate them."

One goal of the reform proposal is to create a common regulatory body, a Gambling Commission, that will regulate both bookmakers and casinos. The commission will offer specific licenses for what the government calls remote gambling, which will cover Internet sports betting as well as Internet casinos.

"Gambling was here long before the Internet," said David Black, a consultant based in the UK. "The Internet is purely a medium. That would be fundamentally the view of a lot of people in the UK."

The Internet is far from the only new medium to offer betting opportunities to UK residents. Although not convenient for huge numbers of players, betting is available on mobile phones and wireless devices.

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**SAMPLE**

Coordinating the surveillance needs for the state-of-the-art Borgata hotel-casino in Atlantic City, N.J., was a carefully orchestrated and planned project.

# Vigilant Eye

## Casinos look to digital recording to fulfill their surveillance needs

BY MARIAN GREEN

**J**ohnny Grimes first saw the potential of digital recording for surveillance purposes about five years ago while serving as director of surveillance for the Sahara Hotel.

He convinced the Sahara management to purchase the first digital recording system in Nevada in 2000, and he believes the technology is here to stay for good because it is so much more efficient than video analog recording.

"It's coming at the industry like a freight train, so the industry may as well accept it," said Grimes, now corporate director of surveillance for Millennium Gaming, operators of the Rampart and Cannery

casinos. "It'll be commonplace within a few years."

Grimes wants to move the Rampart and Cannery casinos in the digital direction, too. "We're looking at changing over now," he said, adding he hopes to convince the company to install the Colby Systems' products.

The benefits of digital over analog recording include increased efficiency, he said. "You don't have to spend money on VCRs," he said, and there are significant time savings in not having to replace and rewind tapes. "That amounts to hundreds and hundreds of hours per month," providing opportunity for employee theft or patron cheating, Grimes said.

The system, developed by Colby Systems, passed

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