

## LAS VEGAS IN RUSSIA?

Times are not good for the gaming industry in Russia. President Putin's decision to relocate all Casinos and slots halls to 4 regions of the country and to shut down Casinos in all other cities as from 1 July 2009, has, logically, come up against total opposition from operators, manufacturers of slots and gaming material, and players, who consider the decision to be absurd and as having very negative consequences.

Thus Yevgeny Kovtun, Vice President of the Gaming Business Association, "These measures are repressive, essentially amounting to prohibition".

The four regions are Kaliningrad, the Primorsky region on the Pacific coast, the Altai region in Siberia, and close to the southern cities of Krasnodar and Rostov. Some of these areas have already taken the first steps to adapt to the new legislation. The authorities in the Krasnodar Region have already informed that in 2009 work will begin on the construction of Azov City, a kind of Vegas in the south of Russia.

The project hopes to attract private investment of US\$14,700 million. Azov City is to have Casinos, slots halls, betting shops, 4 and 5-star hotels, bars, restaurants and sports centres.

Casino Shangri La, Moscow



Casino Metelitsa, Moscow



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST GERMAN LAW PROHIBITING INTERNET GAMING

Since the beginning of this year, Internet betting is forbidden in Germany. 13 of the 16 German states ratified a decision maintaining the government's monopoly on gaming and most types of bets.

The German states can now order internet providers to block the websites of betting operators, and order banks not to carry out transfers related with these transactions. The prohibition affects all bets made on German soil, even when the operator is in a different country.

The European Commission has come down against this new law, and has asked the German authorities for explanations in order to establish whether they comply with EU regulations, emphasising that all such measures must be necessary, proportional and non-discriminatory.

The Commission underlines the fact that Germany allows bets on horse races over the Internet and that advertising for lotteries by mail, on the radio and in the press is legal. The Commission also emphasises that EU Court of Justice jurisprudence makes it clear that no country can restrict access to a service of this nature while encouraging people to participate in other games which gather revenues for the state.

## NEW CEO APPOINTMENT IN UNICUM GAMING

Lubov Loginova has been appointed CEO of Unicum Gaming, while former CEO Valery Klesov has become a member of the Board.

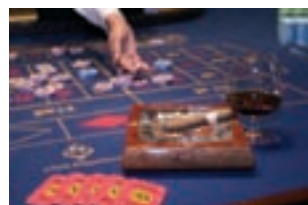
"Unicum Gaming is considered an indisputable authority in the Russian and CIS gaming market. In 2007 the company formed an excellent team of professionals who can fulfill any task. Over the next two years Unicum Gaming will take its place among the leaders of the international gaming equipment market. We have all the conditions and opportunities to attain this goal, and our belief in ourselves and our hunger for success are our main allies", said Lubov Loginova.



Lubov Loginova, CEO Unicum

## NO SMOKING IN FRENCH CASINOS

Europe is continuing the battle against smoking in public establishments. Since 1 January last, smoking is no longer allowed in French Casinos. Anybody flouting the new regulation will be subject to a fine of €450; the premises are fined €750.



No more smoking

## INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION FOR METRONIA

Spanish company Metronia is currently immersed in international expansion on several continents, having recently had its slots installed in five London Casinos, where they were received very well. Their success on the Mexican market, where Metronia is one of the main suppliers, continues to grow apace. Their new items for Mexico will be on display at the Latin American Gaming Exhibition (ELA), to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, over 15-16 May.

Metronia also has commercial interests in China, where it is beginning to break onto the market.



For a long time now, Metronia slots are fully up to European standard

## EUROPEAN CASINOS-THE ELITE TRANSFERS ITS WESTERN EUROPEAN BRANCH

Due to the eminently local nature of the British market, EUROPEAN CASINOS-The Elite has transferred its Western European branch from London to Germany.

The Madrid headquarters will continue to inform of matters in Spain, Portugal, France and Italy, while the Moscow branch will continue to deal with all aspects regarding the gaming industry in Eastern Europe.



## NEW CASINO IN PORTUGAL

The number of gaming establishments in Portugal has increased with the inauguration of the Casino de Chaves, with 322 slots, 13 gaming tables, a hotel and three bars.

Located just 8 kilometres from the Spanish border, it is expected to receive many visits from the neighbouring country.

## BUSINESS WINS UNDERSCORE ARISTOCRAT'S GROWING INFLUENCE IN EUROPE

According to Marc Campman, Marketing Director for Aristocrat Technologies Europe, in 2007 the company expanded its footprint in Slovenia with the supply of games to all major Casino and gaming hall groups, in addition to securing legal approval for its Mark VI Slantop; undertaking further high profile Cash Express™ Hyperlink™ installations in both Switzerland and Greece; increasing its market share in France, Bulgaria and Portugal; and completing a record number of European installations of Double Standalone Progressives including Outback Jack™, Zorro® and Hyperlink™, with Jackpot Deluxe™ and Cash Express™.



Marc Campman, Marketing Director for Aristocrat Technologies Europe

## FIRST SWISS INSTALLATION FOR SIP

Helmut Steffenini, Managing Director of SIP, has informed of the very first Jackpot installation of SIP in Switzerland, specifically at Grand Casino Bern. With the SIP system the Grand Casino Bern can offer customers the first Multi Level Mystery Jackpot in Switzerland over several different slot machines regardless of type and brand.

## 7th EASG CONFERENCE

The 7th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues will be held in the Perla Hotel & Casino, Nova Gorica, Slovenia, next 1-4 July.

The slogan of this meeting, organised for the European Association for the Study of Gambling (EASG) is "Putting all the pieces together".

The aim of the EASG is to increase dialogue between all parties professionally involved in commercial gaming and gambling. This includes governments or governmental bodies, the gambling industry, those who have made gaming and gambling a subject of scientific study, those who are working in the treatment field, gamblers themselves and interested public.

Pieter Remmers, conference organizer



## APPOINTMENT AT ORION

Henry Krawczyk has been appointed Director of International Sales of Orion. Mr Krawczyk commented, "I feel privileged to have joined such a dynamic and innovative team at this stage of the company's development. Although a wholly owned subsidiary of WMS, it is important to build and grow Orion as a unique, separate and distinct brand. There are always challenges in attempting to achieve the quite substantial goals we have set ourselves, but with the talent already at Orion, and when you add the support of WMS, the future looks extremely promising".



Henry Krawczyk Director of International Sales of Orion

## ACE INTERACTIVE RESUMES SERVER BASED GAMING PROJECT IN NORWAY

ACE Interactive, a subsidiary of Aristocrat Leisure Limited, has received an initial order of 500 interactive Video Terminals (iVT) from Norsk Tipping, the Norwegian National (State) Lottery. These terminals will be implemented during a relaunch which begins in summer 2008. Nick Khin, Executive General Manager, EMEA for Aristocrat, said "We are very excited to be working with Norsk Tipping on this large scale video lottery terminal and server based gaming project. The rollout of the ACE Interactive solution across Norway will demonstrate the strength and scalability of our server based gaming solution".



Nick Khin, Executive General Manager EMEA for Aristocrat



Zitro slots are one of the attractions of this gaming establishment

## NEW SUCCESS FOR ZITRO

One of Global Zitro's main lines of activity is to offer the gaming sector initiatives aimed at obtaining dynamism and maximum returns. This description covers the work carried out at Bingo Madrid, Spain, where, to coincide with its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the new refurbishment of the facilities and the new alternative games annex were unveiled. Bingo Madrid was advised in these works by Zitro, creating spaces to guarantee relaxed, pleasurable gaming, thanks to the ergonomic design of the Zitro slots, comfortable chairs, delicate lighting, and the sound and light effects of each game.



Guests are welcomed to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bingo Madrid

## UNICUM AND VIDEOBET SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE UKRAINE

Unicum Gaming Group has signed a joint venture agreement with Videobet. This joint venture is getting underway with a deployment of 500 BLING™ multi-game machines in a server supported configuration in several Casinos across the Ukraine.



The BLING™ multi-game package for the Ukraine market will include successful slot games such as Dr. Lovemore, Desert

Treasure, and Queen of the Pyramids among others, along with classic games such as Black Jack and Roulette. The package will also feature targeted Ukraine games like Zka Ska.

These games were field tested in a number of Ukrainian slot halls over the period of a few months with very encouraging results. Deployment is expected to take place during the second quarter of 2008.



## DECENTRALISED MANUFACTURING TO BENEFIT ARISTOCRAT'S EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS

Aristocrat Technologies Europe has confirmed that European customers will be amongst the biggest beneficiaries following the company's decision to decentralise its global manufacturing operations. The switch from Sydney to London of all machine production, assembly, quality control and despatch is already underway with the entire process scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2008.

Aristocrat Europe's Director of Operations, Stuart Brown said: "Changes in the global supply chain mean that the activities we are carrying out in Europe will be more complex than in the past as we allow for an increase in the range of product that will be available".



Stuart Brown, Aristocrat Europe's Director of Operations

## LEONOR LARA, SPANISH CROUPIER CHAMPION

Leonor Lara, from Casino Gran Madrid, was the winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish Croupier Championship, held at Casino Torrequebrada with the participation of some twenty professionals from nine Spanish Casinos.

Second prize went to Pilar Romero, from Casino Torrequebrada. The pair, both from the Gran Madrid Group, will represent Spain at the European Croupier Championship to be held at Casino Venice, Italy, in April.



Diego Gómez, Public Relations Manager at Casino Torrequebrada; Leonor Lara and Vicente Aranda, organiser of the Championship

## ACRISMATIC TO OPEN NEW CASINO IN SPAIN

The Acrismatic Group is to inaugurate a Casino in the Port of Alicante, Spain, in the coming months.

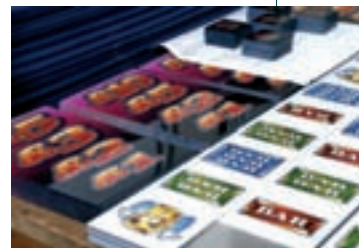
Acrismatic, a Spanish company, also owns Casino Mediterráneo and Casino Villajoyosa, two gaming establishments noted for their excellent management style and modern facilities.



## SHADES SCREENPRINT: 30 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE GAMING INDUSTRY

Shades Screenprint is a specialist manufacturer of screen and digitally printed decorative graphics. Customers can choose from a wide range of materials to print on – whether glass, plastic-based or more traditional materials.

Shades has its roots within the Gaming and Amusement Industry. Indeed Shades can look back to thirty years of serving the industry. Shades assures complete quality control throughout the manufacturing process, including glass cutting.



Model of the future Hotel Casino, a true copy of its Vegas counterpart

el reino  
DE DON QUIJOTE

## "THE KINGDOM OF DON QUIJOTE" TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS IN 2011

The transfer of the Vegas model to Europe continues to go ahead. Spain would appear to be a favourite destination of international companies for these gaming theme parks, followed by the Azov City project in the Russian region of Krasnodar, where works will begin in 2009.

Nothing further has been heard of the project slated for Hungary, and it appears it is no longer going ahead.

In the case of Spain, there are two projects underway: "The Kingdom of Don Quijote", the first to be presented, and "Gran Scala", which is going ahead under full steam, and which, as the only real "macro-project", offers huge leisure possibilities and alternatives.

"The Kingdom of Don Quijote", being developed by the Harrah's Entertainment group, will be an international tourist resort located in Ciudad Real. In addition to the Casino Caesars, it will have a spa, 3 theme hotels, shopping and leisure areas, convention and congress centres, 3 golf courses and residential areas with 8,900 units.

The company expects the resort, slated for 2011, to create 4,100 jobs and bring in two million people per year. According to official information, the total investment will be €6,500 million.

The choice of Ciudad Real as the location for the complex is due, according to Andrew Tottenham, General Director of



Aerial view of the future "Kingdom of Don Quijote"



CAESARS

Development for Europe, to its good road connections, the high-speed train and the future inauguration of a private airport, along with the growing importance of inland tourism.

"Our aim is that this leisure complex be a reference in Europe of what Harrah's is in the US", said Mr Tottenham.

The Vegas-style Casino will have a 10,000 metre gaming room, the largest in Europe, with 113 tables and a large, though as yet to be established, number of slots.

Presentation of the project: Miguel Ángel Fernández, General Director of the Kingdom of Don Quijote; Jan Jones, First Vice President of Communication and Institutional Relations, Harrah's Entertainment; and Andrew Tottenham, General Director of Development for Europe, Harrah's Entertainment