

The Best of Both Worlds: DigiDeal Electronic Game Maintains Dealer-Player Interaction

By Jack Bularovsky

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For players who still want a live blackjack dealer with their electronic gaming experience, there is Digital 21 from Spokane, Wash.-based DigiDeal. Larry Martin, vice president of government affairs and product support, said his company's primary technology is the "digital card system" (DCS) that utilizes a digital card delivery system and a live dealer.

"Our DCS platform offers operational efficiencies while maintaining the feel and play of a live table game," said Martin. "We have put a number of games onto that system such as blackjack, baccarat and several proprietary games, but Digital 21 is our most popular. Just about every blackjack rule in the world has been programmed into the software and all a casino has to do is plug in the keyboard."

According to Martin, the use of digital card facsimiles eliminates the need for dealers to be touching and handling paper cards, thereby reducing dealer fraud and error. In addition, the profile for hiring dealers can be changed and dealer training greatly reduced.

"What distinguishes us from other electronic games is that our technology requires a dealer or host," said Martin. "It actually frees up the dealer to be more of an entertainer than just a card dealer. The game never stops because instant totaling eliminates the need for the player or dealer to add card totals or determine winners. Our customers have told us they have increased table productivity by more than doubling the rounds per hour of a traditional game."

Digital 21 is found throughout Europe, Asia, Central America, South America, and in Washington, California, North Carolina, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.