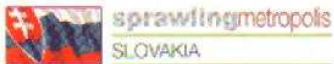




## Harrah's to build E1.5bn Metropolis near Bratislava



Harrah's Entertainment has said it will build a E1.5bn gambling and hotel resort in Slovakia jointly with Hungary's TriGranit. Harrah's, the operator of 54 resorts, is still negotiating financial details with real-estate investment and development company TriGranit.

The project, to be known as Metropolis, will include a casino, five-star hotel, retail, leisure, Aqua Park, golf, cultural and congress facilities. It will be located on a 30-hectare site south of Bratislava, located at the intersection of the D2 and D4 high-

ways that lead to Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Prague. There are four international airports within 220km with 40m passengers yearly, not to mention the tourists passing by on the high- and railways.

"This project will be the new destination of the region, dramatically increasing Slovakia's tourism spend and number of visitors," TriGranit said.

Phased construction would start next year. Harrah's will operate the casino and hotel, with TriGranit operating the shopping mall and entertainment park.

TriGranit said a minimum of six banks would be involved

in the financing of the project. Harrah's managing director of development, Andrew Tottenham, said the project could be followed by others in Europe, but not on the same scale.

It was hoped the finished Metropolis would attract 5m new tourists a year from across central Europe. It is expected to create 28,000 long-term and temporary jobs.

Construction work will start at the end of 2010 and be completed in five years, although the casino is expected to be finished in the first phase during 2012. The venue is expected to generate E600m in taxes for Slovakia annually.

# Macau to cap table games



Officials in Macau are looking at how they can slow the future development of the casino sector to prevent its over expansion.

Local government is reviewing the number of gambling tables in the city, whilst drafting two laws, one to ban slot machines from residential areas and another to increase the minimum age for customers and staff at casinos from 18 to 21. The moves have been backed by Macau's six licensed operators. The suggestion is for table games for each operator be capped at somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500 tables. Las Vegas Sands already operates two properties in Macau with more than 1,000 table games.

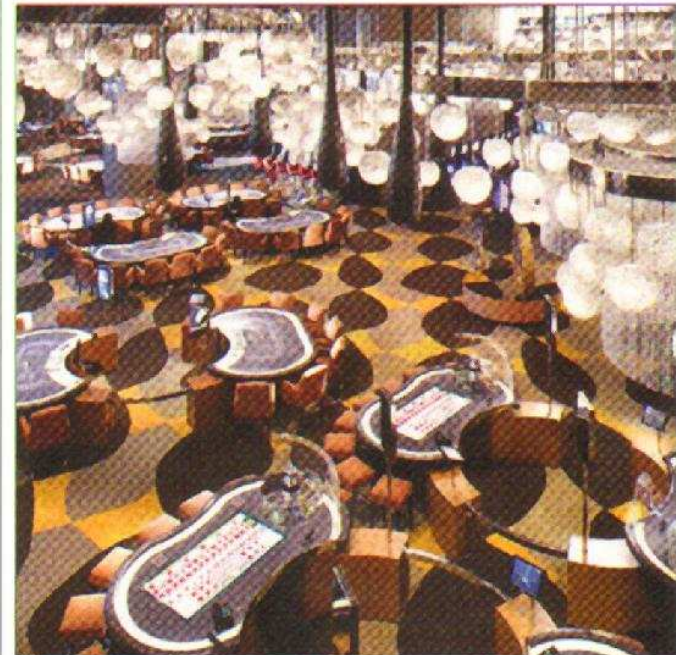
Ambrose So Shu Fai, chief executive officer of SJM Holding, said: "The gaming market cannot be expanded forever without any restriction. We'll explore ways and means as to how we should

expand the business.

Steve Wynn added that plans to raise the casino age limit to 21 were not a worry at all. "A casino is no place for children," he said. "Someone should be earning their own living before they think about gambling. The idea of limiting somehow the number of gaming tables in the Macau gaming area,

that's a very good idea. It makes the industry safer. The primary objective of the government is of course to raise money, but on the other hand they have a very strong interest in how it affects the community."

Casino revenue in Macau surged by 53 per cent in September compared to last year.



The gaming floor at Altira Macau formerly Crown