

## **February's independent living technology news**

Here's what's new in the world of independent living technology this month.

### **Public policy, legislation and campaigns**

#### **NHSX identifies priorities on health and social care technology policy**

The government unit that oversees technology in health and social care NHSX has said that better integration between services, workforce training and accreditation and procurement are [among its priorities](#) in its efforts to improve the way the sector uses technology.

#### **Home of 2030 competition spotlights green age-friendly housing**

The housing minister Christopher Pincher has launched [The Home of 2030](#) competition, inviting small businesses, designers and manufacturers from across the housing sector to design low carbon, age-friendly homes.

#### **Report calls for an end to paper-based exams**

The education technology charity Jisc has [published a report](#) calling for pen and paper exams to be scrapped by 2025 in favour of digital platforms that are more inclusive and accessible and easier to administer.

#### **Government launches Inclusive Transport Leaders Scheme for providers and operators**

The Department for Transport has launched the [Inclusive Transport Leaders Scheme](#) which aims to promote accessible transport for disabled people. The programme aims to establish a network of transport operators, which will join an accreditation scheme to make services more accessible.

### **Technological developments and innovations**

#### **Low cost communication aid prototype targets developing countries**

Researchers at the University of Maryland have developed [low-cost prototype assistive technologies](#) for people with communication impairments living in developing countries.

#### **British Airways trials autonomous wheelchairs at terminals**

British Airways has begun [the first trial of a self-driving electric wheelchair](#) to help people with mobility impairments navigate airports. Supported by the Japanese wheelchair maker WHILL, the trials will be held at New York's JFK airport before being replicated at Heathrow airport's terminal 5 in the UK.

#### **App turns smartphone into computer mouse**

A free app for iOS and Android that can transform a smart phone or tablet into a remote computer control has been developed. [The Remote Mouse app](#) simulates the functions of a wireless mouse, keyboard and touch pad as well as providing a number of other shortcuts for everyday computer-related tasks.

## **Algorithm promises improved robotic glove AI to tackle hand tremors**

Engineers from New York University have used artificial intelligence techniques to [build an algorithmic model](#) that will make robotic exoskeleton gloves for people with Parkinson's disease and other neurological movement disorders better at reducing wearers' hand tremors.

*These stories were originally published in the dispATches newsletter – a free monthly e-mail about assistive technologies that empower disabled and older people to live more independently. [Click here to sign up for dispATches.](#)*