

November's independent living technology news

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

Public policy, legislation and campaigns

Government publishes review of tech for students with specific learning difficulties

The government's Office for Science has [published a review](#) of the evidence supporting technology-led interventions for people with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. While the review found technology may enhance reading and writing abilities for these learners, it found more research is needed fully understand their impact on educational outcomes.

Accessible technology grant competition opens for transport innovations

The Department for Transport has announced an [Accessible Technology Research and Innovation Grant](#) to fund new ways to improve transport accessibility for disabled people in the UK by removing physical barriers, automating processes and providing better information and support.

Disability equality training course targets aviation industry

The Queen Elizabeth Foundation has launched a [disability equality training course](#) for the aviation industry. The course will help staff improve the passenger experience by providing insights into the lives and rights of disabled people, exploring relevant aviation laws and spreading inclusive practices.

Independent living website to go live in Scotland

The Disabled Living Foundation has joined forces with the community equipment provider EquipU to [launch a tailored version](#) of its AskSARA online independent living assessment tool in central Scotland. The new service will link users to a catalogue of over 10,000 daily living products and suppliers.

Technological developments and innovations

United Airlines redesigns mobile app for visually impaired customers

The international aviation firm United Airlines has launched a [new version of its smart phone app](#) that boasts a range of accessibility features to help visually impaired people. The changes include improved integration with screen readers, increased colour contrast and audio notifications.

Smart device aims to improve safety and connectivity of electric wheelchairs

A US-based mobility equipment company has created a smart device that can be mounted onto an electric wheelchair. The [LUCI platform](#) can connect to the web and link to onboard sensors to help prevent collisions, detect steps and drops, and provide voice activated communications.

Headset enhances vision among visually impaired people

A global vision enhancement technology provider has released a new wireless and hands-free headset for visually impaired people. [eSight 4](#) combines camera technology, advanced sensors with specially designed software to maximise the quality of the wearer's vision.

iOS communication aid app translates speech to symbols

A speech and language therapist has built any iOS app that translates speech into symbols to help people with limited verbal communication skills to engage in conversations. The [Symbol-It app](#) represents speakers' words on the user's screen in real time.

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.](#)