<u>**April's independent living technology news**</u>

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

Public policy, legislation and campaigns

WIPO charts global assistive technology trends over 20 years

The World Intellectual Property Organisation has [published a report](#) that uses patent application records to trace the evolution of global assistive technology sector over the last two decades. The report finds that major technological developments such as the Internet of things and artificial intelligence are helping to speed up innovation in the sector.

Report pushes for a two-year programme to 'normalise' technology in care

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the TEC Services Association have issued a [joint report](#) calling on the government to fund a two-year programme of technology-enabled care projects to help normalise the use of technology in delivering social care in England.

New study looks to explore the impact of digital resources on older people

The University of Stirling is to embark on a [three-year project](#) examining how digital resources can be designed to help older people become more socially active and overcome health and wellbeing inequalities in later life.

Research highlights the accessibility challenges of charging an electric vehicle

New research by the smart city consultancy Urban Foresight and the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers has [found that 61% of disabled people](#) would consider buying an electric vehicle only if charging facilities were made more accessible.

Technological developments and innovations

Glasses provide live speech transcription for hearing impaired people

An assistive technology startup is developing a pair of smart glasses that help people with hearing impairments understand spoken communication by generating live subtitles. [TranscribeGlass](#) uses a speech to text technology to convert dialogue from anyone within the wearer's field of vision into closed captions in near-real time.

Novel brain computer interface uses ultrasound to read neural signals

Researchers at the California Institute of Technology have developed a [new technique](#) for using brain signals to interact with technologies such as computers by applying advances in ultrasound equipment to detect brain activity by listening to tiny changes in blood flow within the brain.

Pilot of cargo-carrying robot to test impact on older people's lives

Newcastle University has [announced plans to trial](#) a cargo-carrying robot to assess its impact of mobility of older people. Gita is a two-wheeled robotic device capable of following the user as they walk and communicates Sir through sound, light and touch.

New microphone-powered puff switch offers hands-free control of computer devices

The Finnish assistive technology company Quha has released the [Vento](#) – a new microphone-operated puff switch that can be used for hands-free environmental controls, computer mouse-clicks and any other device with a 3.5mm switch connector.

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 hosted by Designability. [Click here to sign up for dispATches.](#)