

PRESS RELEASE

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Self-reliance and independence: Udo Holdenried is mobile with his VW T6.1

"For me, mobility means independence and equality - the traffic rules apply to everyone - but also peace and relaxation. I can be where I am for as long as I want without a transport service picking me up or waiting for me," says Udo Holdenried. "Now I'm a human being, not a transportation freight."



Thanks to Space Drive, Udo Holdenried is independent and mobile in his VW T6.1. Photo PARAVAN

It's not yet really "tangible" for Udo that he will soon be able to drive his own car to university. "The feeling is still a bit unreal, not quite tangible for me yet," says the 29-year-old law student. "Because so far I associate the feeling of driving with Aichelau and PARAVAN and not yet with my own freedom. When the car is at the front door, I'll realize I don't have to give it up anymore." More than six years ago, Udo got his driver's license at the request of his parents, partly to give his mother, who has cancer, the opportunity to share in the experience, to show, "Yes, it's possible!"

Now, six years later, he is sitting in his converted VW T6.1 from PARAVAN. "Priorities were different for a long time, but now was the time for me to say, yes I'm tackling the issue of owning a car!" In order to be able to study effectively and independently, and also to do research in the library at leisure, he needed to be independently mobile. "With a bit of a struggle, we then also found a payer," he reports.

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Udo has brittle bone disease. So that he can move his vehicle safely in road traffic - without injuring himself - some conversions were necessary: He operates the gas, brake and steering via the Space Drive driving and steering system using two joysticks. He steers with the right and operates the gas and brake with the left. Using a cassette lift, Udo drives his individually adapted PARAVAN PR 50 wheelchair up to the driver's seat, where it is securely anchored by a docking station. In addition, a backrest is attached to the wheelchair for better support.

Now everything works in the car in such a way that Udo can be on the road completely independently and without outside help. "The sliding door opens electrically, and the cassette lift, which I use to get in, moves in and out again at the push of a button." There are quite a few different options: Wired connection, radio remote connection or by cell phone touch. He operates the secondary functions - such as lights, turn signals or horn - via voice control while driving, including the sun visor, which he would otherwise not be able to reach so easily.

"The car ended up being completely electrified and mechanized for me," he reports. "In the car, I have a docking station, which makes the wheelchair almost one with the vehicle. "At the end of the day, everything is self-sufficiently electric, that you can use this without any outside help, just like anyone else."

Thanks to Space Drive, Udo Holdenried is independent and mobile in his VW T6.1. Photo PARAVAN



Finally mobile, six years ago Udo completed driving school at PARAVAN, a few driving lessons and he had his car and the technology back under control. Photo: PARAVAN

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The door of Udo's VW T6.1 opens at the push of a button, and he has no trouble getting into the car via the cassette lift. Photo: PARAVAN



Udo's car looks a bit like an airplane cockpit. Many buttons and levers ensure that Udo can operate his car independently without outside help. Photo: PARAVAN

Contact:

Anke Leuschke, Press Officer, Paravan GmbH,
Tel.: +49 7388/ 99 95 81, e-mail: anke.leuschke@paravan.de

About Paravan GmbH:

Paravan GmbH is the world market leader for highly customized vehicle solutions for the disabled. Around 180 employees develop and produce individually adapted automobile conversions, power wheelchairs. Paravan pursues a holistic approach with the "all-in-one concept". The technological highlight is Space Drive, an intelligent digital control system based on the drive-by-wire principle. Thanks to the active redundancy of the servo motors, it is completely fail-safe and the first in the world to be approved for road use. With the help of this innovation, severely disabled people, some without arms or legs, can drive independently and safely. It is not possible for these drivers to simply intervene in the steering wheel. Worldwide, Space Drive has proven itself on over one billion road kilometers in the last 19 years and is used by numerous industrial customers for test vehicles in the field of autonomous driving. The system is available as a retrofit kit with an open interface for all known vehicle types. www.paravan.de