

Pffronstetten-Aichelau, November 21. 2023

### **A mobile start to training From driving school to vehicle customization**

Bruno is mobile at the start of his training. First the driving school training and then the individual vehicle conversion. A good year later and just in time for the start of his training, the newly qualified apprentice was able to take delivery of his vehicle and can now start his professional life independently and without having to rely on other people.



*Bruno has made it: just in time for the start of his apprenticeship, he was able to take delivery of his customized VW T6.1. Now he can start his working life independently without any outside help. Photo: PARAVAN.*

It was a very special day for Bruno. Not only is he starting his training as a technical product designer, he can now also drive his own car to his training location without any outside help. He passed his practical driving test at the PARAVAN driving school just over a year ago and has now been able to take delivery of his customized PARAVAN VW T6.1.

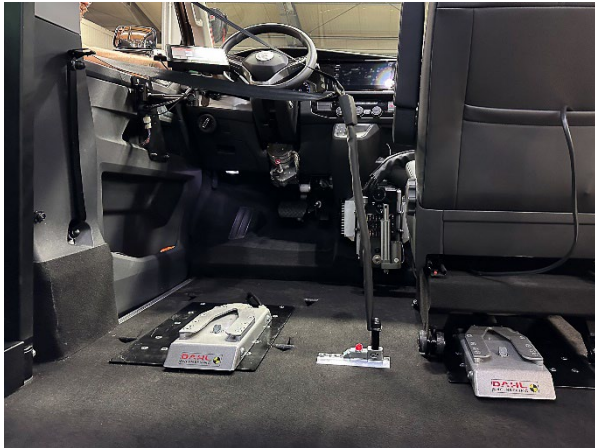
He has been in a wheelchair since he was two years old. So he is already used to driving a joystick, even if everything is different in the car. "When the wheelchair table is folded away and the joystick is there for driving instead, it's still a bit unusual for me, but it's very easy to handle," says the 19-year-old. He quickly got used to the slightly different handling of his 4-way joystick, which he uses to control the car with the help of the Space Drive driving and steering system. "It's not that different, right, left for steering, only the accelerator and brake are the other way round." Unlike with a wheelchair, he pushes the joystick forwards to brake and backwards to accelerate; he can accelerate or brake on the diagonal out of the bend.

He enters the vehicle via a cassette lift and can drive his wheelchair directly into the belt in front of the steering wheel. His own protector belt offers additional protection. A backrest also moves behind the wheelchair, which is secured in the docking station, to provide additional support. The special feature: his wheelchair has a tabletop. He can move the tabletop to the side at the touch of a button. The 4-way joystick then moves into the correct position for driving. He can operate the secondary functions of his vehicle, such as indicators, windscreen wipers or sun visor, using the PARAVAN touch system, voice control or his smartphone app. An additionally installed camera system with environment recognition ensures a safe all-round view.

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Three years ago, he took his first test drive to get a feel for whether it was even possible to drive a car. What followed was a marathon of assessments and applications. Just over a year ago, he successfully completed his practical driving test at the PARAVAN driving school and passed on his first attempt after three weeks of training. Driving instructor Horst Hilsenbeck didn't even notice that Bruno then had a year's break; he quickly settled back into the new situation.

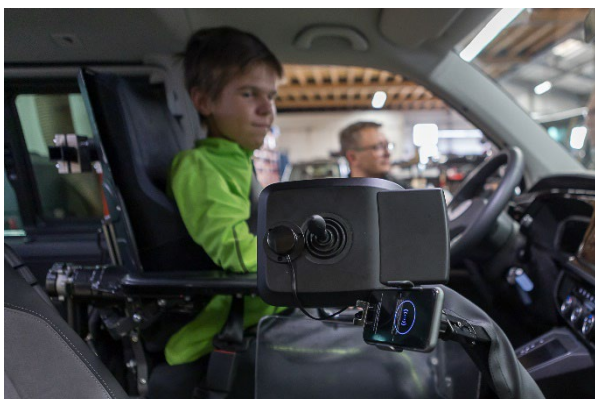
"Drive", says Bruno and nothing happens. Driving instructor Horst Hilsenbeck smiles. "Try it in German." Clack and off we go. And then it starts to rain. "Windshield wiper interval" says Bruno to the car and the view is clear again. It took Bruno three hours and then his driving instructor was able to release him into his new mobile freedom with a clear conscience. "Very cool," he says happily. "Another piece of life with a lot more independence, freedom and it's just fun." Now he can give something back and drive the family.



*Bruno gets into the car in his wheelchair via the cassette lift and, after tilting the table slightly from the wheelchair, drives directly into the belt in front of the steering wheel. At the touch of a button, the table moves away and the 4-way joystick for driving the car moves to the desired position and off he goes. Photo: PARAVAN*



*With the help of his own construction, he can move his table from the wheelchair, including the R-Net control, to the side. This leaves room for the 4-way joystick for the car. Photo: PARAVAN*



*Before setting off, the 4-way joystick, which he uses to steer his vehicle thanks to the Space Drive drive-by-wire system, moves to the desired position. A backrest provides the necessary secure support in the wheelchair. Photo: PARAVAN*

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*"Does everything fit?" asks PARAVAN technician Edgar, who was responsible for customising Bruno's vehicle. A lot of detailed work is necessary in the end, because a vehicle like this has to fit like a tailor-made suit, otherwise it can lead to premature fatigue when driving. One last check before delivery and off you go. Photo: PARAVAN*



*Last check ride with driving instructor Horst Hilsenbeck. Now all the settings are checked again: is fatigue-free driving guaranteed, do the anchors and the backrest for the additional support in the wheelchair fit? Photo: PARAVAN*



*Bruno's Space Drive cockpit looks a bit like an aeroplane. The joystick is positioned in the centre, just like the wheelchair. In addition to the PARAVAN Touch for the secondary function, there are additional monitors for the camera system with environment recognition. This is because Bruno cannot turn his head so easily. Photo: PARAVAN*

### **Kontakt:**

Anke Leuschke, Pressesprecherin, Paravan GmbH,  
Tel.: +49 7388/ 99 95 81, E-Mail: [anke.leuschke@paravan.de](mailto:anke.leuschke@paravan.de)

### **Über die Paravan GmbH:**

Die PARAVAN GmbH ist Weltmarktführer für hoch individuelle behindertengerechte Fahrzeuglösungen. . Rund 180 Mitarbeiter am Standort Pfronstetten Aichelau und in der Niederlassung Heidelberg entwickeln und produzieren individuell angepasste Automobilumbauten, Elektrorollstühle bis hin zur eigens spezialisierten Fahrausbildung. PARAVAN verfolgt mit dem „Alles-aus-einer-Hand-Konzept“ einen ganzheitlichen Ansatz. Technologisches Highlight ist Space Drive, ein intelligentes digitales Steuerungssystem nach dem Drive-by-Wire-Prinzip. Durch die aktive Redundanz der Servomotoren ist es vollständig ausfallsicher und das erste mit Straßenzulassung. Mithilfe dieser Innovation fahren schwerstbehinderte Menschen, teils ohne Arme und Beine, selbständig und sicher Auto. Ein einfaches Eingreifen in das Lenkrad ist diesen Fahrern nicht möglich. Weltweit hat sich Space Drive in den letzten 20 Jahren auf über eine Milliarde Straßenkilometern bewährt und wird von zahlreichen Industriekunden für Testträger im Bereich autonomes Fahren genutzt. Das System ist als Nachrüstsatz mit offener Schnittstelle für alle bekannten Fahrzeugtypen erhältlich. [www.paravan.de](http://www.paravan.de)