

Pfronstetten-Aichelau, December 1, 2025

**Get in, drive off and start living!
Sabina is embarking on a new chapter in her life.**

Four years after taking her practical driving test at PARAVAN, Sabina's dream comes true when she gets back behind the wheel of a specially converted VW T6.1, regaining a sense of freedom and independence in the process.



Like a tailor-made suit: Sabina's driving system is precisely tailored to her needs, ensuring maximum safety, comfort and fatigue-free driving. Photo: Paravan

"Sometimes I still can't believe I've done it." When Sabina talks about her first car, it becomes clear that it's about much more than just mobility. For the 46-year-old employment agent, inclusion consultant and keynote speaker from Munich, owning a car was not just about comfort; it was a symbol of equality in everyday life. At the top of her bucket list was: 'Being independent on the road – when I want, where I want.' Now she has reached this milestone.

From the first attempt to intensive training.

Her journey began in 2016 with a mobile driving school in Munich. However, this was not the ideal solution, so after three years, Sabina decided to undergo intensive training at the PARAVAN Mobility Park in Aichelau. She passed her practical driving test there in 2021. The close support provided by the PARAVAN mobility advisors helped alleviate her fears. "Above all, the positive examples encouraged me to stick to my plan."

She started her practical training with PARAVAN driving instructor Ralf Buhmann in 2021, and after just under four weeks, she passed her test. "Ralf and I didn't see eye to eye at first, but then we became friends," she recalls. She kept making the same mistakes, but after a few words of clarification, she got the hang of it. 'What he said was right.'

PRESS RELEASE**Patience, applications and renovation: it will be four years until the keys are handed over.**

However, it would still be some time before she could take delivery of her own vehicle. First, she had to submit an application to the relevant cost bearers, including a medical report, a technical needs analysis and cost estimates. It was a process that required patience, perseverance and support. 'It didn't go entirely smoothly,' she recalls. But her case worker helped her. Above all, communication between the technical advisor and the customer was difficult: 'Apart from the bureaucracy, I was busier with application forms than with the actual mobility itself.' The car came from PARAVAN, which helped speed things up. Then it was time to wait for the decision. Ultimately, it took four years.

The vehicle of choice was a customised VW T6.1, tailored to Sabina's individual needs at the PARAVAN Mobility Park in Aichelau. Also on board is the Space Drive digital driving system, which Sabina operates with her right hand using a gas-brake slider. Light steering with a hand knob enables precise control, while the PARAVAN cassette lift ensures barrier-free access. With the help of the Paravan transfer console, Sabina can move directly from her wheelchair to the original driver's seat, and she's ready to go. She deliberately decided against a touch system or voice control. "That irritated me a little at driving school," Sabina reports. "It was the best solution at the time – let's see if it stays that way."

What was the first drive after the adaptation like? Emotional. "When I saw the car, I was moved to tears," she recalls. Paravan driving instructor Ralf Buhmann, who had already guided her through her training, was by her side again for her first test drive in four years. "Let us know if anything needs adjusting and we can fix it now," he says, checking the position of the right armrest.

After the first driving lesson, she concludes, "It was nice, but I noticed that I had become a little anxious." However, with each passing day and kilometre driven, her confidence is slowly returning.

Arriving in everyday life: travelling in Munich.

Everyday life has now begun. Sabina now drives to work independently. She used to rely on a transport service, but with three appointments and 14 locations in Munich, she lacked the necessary flexibility. 'Great, but still exciting.' So, what does this new freedom mean for her? Self-determination. Independence. Participation. And, finally, flexibility at work. Until now, this new freedom had not felt real to her. 'It's very liberating and overwhelming,' she says. Now, she can lead a completely independent life in her car. 'But I also feel very privileged and grateful.' It's now time to get used to city traffic in Munich.

And the journey continues: Next up is a visit to her mother. After that, she plans to go to the seaside next year. 'Italy would be my next big destination. I'm really looking forward to a quiet weekend, but even more to everything that's coming up.'

She has now ticked one item off her bucket list. Sabina is now taking the wheel. Literally. "Now it's time to enjoy."



Lenken, Gas geben und bremsen – alles per Hand: Das individuell angepasste Cockpit ermöglicht Sabina ein sicheres und ermüdungsfreies Fahren mit höchster Präzision. Foto: Paravan



Crucial: The gas/brake slider, controlled via the Space Drive driving and steering system, is the central control element—and the key to Sabina's new mobility. Photo: Paravan



Barrier-free travel: Sabina gets into the vehicle safely using the PARAVAN cassette lift. From there, she uses a transfer console to move independently into the driver's seat – the start of an independent driving experience. Photo: Paravan



Confidence behind the wheel: After four years, Sabina is back behind the wheel—accompanied by Paravan driving instructor Ralf Buhmann, who can intervene via the training system. The first drive: emotional and courageous at the same time. Photo: Paravan



The big moment: Sabina at the wheel—independent, proud, and ready for her new mobility. Photo: Paravan

Contact:

Anke Leuschke, Press spokesperson, Paravan GmbH,
Tel.: +49 7388/ 99 95 81, E-Mail: anke.leuschke@paravan.de

PRESS RELEASE

About Paravan GmbH:

PARAVAN GmbH is the global market leader in customized vehicle solutions for the disabled people. About 160 employees at the Pfronstetten Aichelau and Heidelberg sites develop and produce customized vehicle conversions, electric wheelchairs and even specialized driver training. PARAVAN pursues a holistic approach with its "one-stop shop" 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 to be approved for road use. This innovation enables severely disabled people, some of whom have no arms or legs, to drive independently and safely. It is not possible for these drivers to simply take control of the steering wheel. Over the past 20 years, Space Drive has been proven on more than one billion kilometers of roads worldwide 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.com