



## **Assistive Technology--Environmental Controls**

Environmental controls help people with mobility impairments to conduct everyday activities and to independently control their environment. Examples include remote controlled devices that enable people to adjust indoor temperatures, tilt their beds, turn lights and fans on and off, open and close doors, and operate televisions, stereos, telephones and computers. These controls can be activated by joysticks, tap buttons, or switches. Some are voice-activated.

**The following are provided as information sources. The Reeve Foundation does not endorse any products, vendors or services and a listing here is not to be taken as an endorsement.**

### **General Information and Funding**

[http://www.abledata.com/abledata\\_docs/icg-spin.htm](http://www.abledata.com/abledata_docs/icg-spin.htm)

**AbleData: Informed Consumer's Guide to Assistive Technology for People with Spinal Cord Injuries** (AbleData, 1996)

<http://www.abledata.com/indexing-terms/controls>

**AbleData: Controls**

Lists environmental control products.

[www.ataporg.org](http://www.ataporg.org)

**Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs**

One way to shop for assistive technology is to check in with your state's federal Tech Act office. That way you can try out various ECU or AT systems before purchase.

<http://assistivetech.net/>

**AssistiveTech.net**

Offers an online information resource providing up-to-date info on assistive technologies, adaptive environments, and community resources.

<http://www.etoengineering.com/>

### **ETO Engineering**

ETO Engineering provides information on accessible cell phones for people with special needs including people with mobility impairment.

<http://www.handihelp.net/>

### **Handihelp**

E-mail: [handihelp@live.com](mailto:handihelp@live.com)

Handihelp offers information on low-tech and low-cost adaptive solutions for people with disabilities.

[www.rehabtool.com](http://www.rehabtool.com)

### **Rehabtool.com**

Features a comprehensive collection of links to AT catalogs, databases and vendor directories.

[www.usatechguide.org](http://www.usatechguide.org)

### **United Spinal Association's USA Tech Guide**

Has reviews and info on various forms of assistive technology.

<http://www.watap.org/resources>

### **Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP)**

WATAP provides services such as assistive technology training, evaluations, demonstrations and rentals. The website includes links to vendors, funding resources, and other service providers.

### **Eye Gaze Technology**

[www.dynavoxtech.com](http://www.dynavoxtech.com)

### **Dynavox**

DynaVox Mayer-Johnson  
2100 Wharton Street  
Suite 400  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
Toll-free: 800-344-1778

[www.eyegaze.com](http://www.eyegaze.com)

### **LC Technologies**

10363 Democracy Lane  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030 U.S.A.  
Phone: 703-385-8800  
Toll-free: 800-393-4293

[www.tobii.com](http://www.tobii.com)

### **Tobii Technology**

Tobii ATI (Assistive Technology)  
333 Elm Street  
Dedham MA 02026  
Toll-free: 800-793-9227  
Email: [sales@tobiiATI.com](mailto:sales@tobiiATI.com)

<https://thinksmartbox.com/product/the-grid-2/>

**The Grid 2**

Sensory Software International Ltd  
Smart House  
4a Court Road  
Malvern  
Worcestershire  
WR14 3BL  
Phone: +44 (0)1684 578868  
Email: [info@senorysoftware.com](mailto:info@senorysoftware.com)

**Manufacturers and Vendors**

<http://www.ablenetinc.com/Assistive-Technology/Environmental-Control-Units-ECU>

**AbleNet, Inc.**

Phone: 651-294-2200, 800-322-0956 (Toll-free, US and Canada)  
E-mail: [customerservice@ablenetinc.com](mailto:customerservice@ablenetinc.com)  
Environmental control products and strategies for using them

[www.ablephone.com](http://www.ablephone.com)

**Able-Phone**

Phone: 530-846-7466  
Email: [able-phone@juno.com](mailto:able-phone@juno.com)  
Develops and manufactures hands-free and voice-activated phones

<http://asi-autonome.com/>

**Accessibility Services, Inc.**

6241 S. Tex Pt.  
Homosassa, FL 34448  
Phone: 800-933-8400  
Accessibility Services, Inc., (ASI) develops and provides environmental control units and adaptive equipment for individuals, hospitals, businesses, schools and universities.

[www.activocal.com](http://www.activocal.com)

**ActiVocal**

290 Andrews Rd.  
Feasterville-Treose, PA 19053  
Phone: 610-999-2510  
Offers a phone that is voice-activated.

<http://www.breakboundaries.com>

**Break Boundaries**

Phone: 859-240-2817

E-mail: [CustomerService@breakboundaries.com](mailto:CustomerService@breakboundaries.com)

Assistive technology products for people with mobility impairments

<http://www.controlbionics.com>

**Control Bionics**

745 Center Street, Suite 303

Milford, OH 45150

Phone: 855-831-7521

Maker of the NeuroSwitch, a device that uses nerve based signals to control assistive technologies such as voice systems, environmental controls, electronic interfaces and other communication devices.

<http://dynamiccontrols.com/>

**Dynamic Controls**

Phone: 440-979-0657

E-mail: [usasales@dynamiccontrols.com](mailto:usasales@dynamiccontrols.com) (sales inquiries)

Dyanmic Controls makes controllers for mobility products. The company's headquarters are in New Zealand; a regional office (Dynamic North America) is in Ohio.

[www.automatedliving.com](http://www.automatedliving.com)

**Home Automated Living (HAL)**

Phone: 855-442-5435

HAL makes software that turns the home computer into an ECU controllable from anywhere.

<http://www.qtiusa.com>

**Quartet Technology**

Phone: 978-957-4328

E-mail: [info@qtiusa.com](mailto:info@qtiusa.com)

Quartet offers several environmental control products. The FAQs offer ideas on funding the technology.

<http://www.thespeechgurus.com/encoun.html>

**The Speech Gurus, LLC**

Phone: 888-641-6776

E-mail: [info@TheSpeechGurus.com](mailto:info@TheSpeechGurus.com)

Environmental control units and switches from a company that specializes in speech recognition software and hardware

For info on **adaptive gaming**, please ask for our fact sheet on Adaptive Video Gaming.

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The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please visit the online catalog at:

<http://www1.youseemore.com/ReevePRC/default.asp>

### Books

- Angelo, Jennifer. **Assisted Technology for Rehabilitation Therapists.** Philadelphia, PA: Davis, 1997.
- Bryant, Diane. **Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities.** Austin, TX: Allyn and Bacon, 2003.
- Campbell, Molly and Alex Truesdell. **Creative Constructions: Technologies That Make Adaptive Design Accessible, Affordable, Inclusive, and Fun.** Cambridge, Ma: Creative Constructions, 2000.
- Cook, Albert and Susan Hussey. **Assistive Technologies: Principles and Practice.** St. Louis: Mosby, 2002.
- Dellechiaie, John. **Lucky Quad Bots: Freedom Inventions for People Who Are Quadriplegic.** San Rafael, CA, Abundant Answers Publishing Company, 2000.
- Kelker, Katharin & Roger Holt. **Family Guide to Assistive Technology.** Cambridge, MA: Brookline Books, 2000.
- King, Thomas. **Assistive Technology: Essential Human Factors.** Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 1999.
- Krantz, Gordon and et al. **Assistive Products: An Illustrated Guide to Terminology.** Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association, 1998.

- Plaxen, J. Rose. **Adapt My World: Homemade Adaptations for People with Disabilities**. Santa Ana, Calif.: Seven Locks Press, 2005.
- Scherer, Marcia. **Assistive Technology: Matching Device and Consumer for Successful Rehabilitation**. Washington, D.C: APA Publishers, 2002.
- Stoller, Lynn. **Low-Tech Assistive Devices: A Handbook for the School Setting**. Franingham, MA: Therapro Inc, 1998.
- Werner, David. **Nothing About Us Without Us: Developing Innovative Technologies For, By and With Disabled Persons**. Palo Alto, CA: HealthWrights, 1998.

### Videos

- **Kid Ability Two: Assistive Technology**. Cicero, N.Y. (24 minutes).
- **Empowering People with Disabilities through Technology**. Princeton, N.J: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1999. (49 minutes).
- **Freedom Machines**. San Francisco, CA: Richard Cox Production, 2004. (57 minutes).
- **LogIn2Life**. Brooklyn, NY: Icarus Films, 2012. DVD (86 minutes)  
This documentary is centered on two people (one with MS and one with quadriplegia) who are homebound by their disabilities and have found community online. It explores the growing number of people who spend much of their lives in online virtual worlds such as Second Life and World of Warcraft.
- **Tech for Tots**. Los Angeles, CA: (Comes with a handbook and CD).

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