

# Naidex Review

Able Magazine were again thrilled to be the official headline media partner at this year's Naidex event, the largest disability lifestyle exhibition in the UK.

By Tom Jamison

Naidex is like no other disability exhibition. The 250 exhibitors and 12,000 visitors means that it has a genuinely impressive scale - and a bustle to match.

It seems that every year new themes come to the fore that reflect the needs and ambitions of disabled people and their carers. Although it would be foolish to suggest

that 'independence' hasn't always been a theme at Naidex, the 2017 event saw a huge range of devices and technology specifically aimed at promoting the idea that disabled people can be enabled to do more for themselves if the correct background support is in place.

Products that collect and manage data have certainly increased in number of late and are based around two concepts, collecting data for trend analysis (such as pulse, temperature and so on) and secondly, monitoring activities not only based on physiological data but also whereby disabled people are able to register that they've taken their medicine

- or again, by 'smart' means boiled the kettle for their morning cuppa; thereby signalling that all is well.

The buzz at the event was all about how remote monitoring could enable disabled people to operate independently whilst keeping safely within set parameters of care.

If data is the basis of reality then the second theme that emerged at the event was its polar opposite - with plenty of examples of how virtual reality can be used to provide stimulation or relaxation as required for people with differing needs. Exploring a new world has seemingly never been easier, thanks to a range of products that utilise headsets that play to

visual and audio senses. The benefits to mood and wider mental health are still being explored but even on a smaller scale, car dealerships, tour operators and so on are now able to give potential customers a virtual tour before they think about committing to the real thing.

Naidex continues to express the possibilities that products and services can give to disabled people in all spheres of their daily lives, and is an ideal forum to get 'hands-on' and compare and discuss one with another, whilst working towards the best choice for the individual.

## Best picks...

Naidex is a great place to see thousands of products all aimed at disabled people. There is a slight 'kid in a sweetshop' element, although we always get serious when we're reviewing the entries in our Able Magazine Naidex Best In Show Award. There were some truly outstanding products on show at Naidex 2017. Here are a few we really enjoyed reviewing - all of which received a five star rating...

### VW Caddy Maxi Life

This tidy WAV will seat six people in comfort. Design features such as the deep footwells mean that nobody is cramped and the continuous rear door seal (unique to this conversion) adds to a practical and pleasant ride for the wheelchair user.

TBC Conversions  
www.tbconversions.com



### Magic Carpet

The 'carpet' can be projected on to surfaces ranging in size from tray-top to 3.6 metres wide. Interactive games and images can be enjoyed by disabled people with learning difficulties, sensory disabilities or dementia and operates through sensing simple movements or touch. With 500 apps included 'in the box' the possibilities for fun, education and stimulation are endless.

Sensory Guru  
www.sensoryguru.com



### GrandCare

GrandCare is a leading example of the trend towards data collection, not only to understand the health of the user but also as an aid to independence. The computer-based system can accommodate a huge amount of information that can help to indicate trends or any concerning anomalies and can become a hub for communication and helpful reminders and the like.

ATEL  
www.adaptivetechology.eu



### RGK Tiga Sub4

Anybody that thinks they already have a lightweight chair might need to look again. The Tiga model we saw was 3.6kg, an engineering feat made possible by incorporating carbon fibre sideguards and footplates and held together by titanium screws on an exceptionally lean frame.

www.rgklife.com



### BT Video Baby Monitor 2000

Of course this same unit could also be useful for carers looking after disabled adults. The monitor comes with a fully portable unit with a range of 250m that allows the camera to pan and tilt - as well as facilitating speaking and hearing.

www.shop.bt.com



### bPay

Once registered, the bPay wristband will allow the user to pay for anything under £30 at contactless terminals. This means an easier route to payment for people with low dexterity than having to dig out a card from their wallet. The technology will also link to a free bank account app.

www.bpay.co.uk



### C-Leg

This isn't just a carefully presented jointed leg prosthetic, although it certainly is that. A microprocessor in the prosthetic makes around 100 'decisions' a second to safeguard against hinge collapse and stumbling. Even though it's been at Naidex before, it's still showing the way.

Ottobock  
www.ottobock.co.uk



### MyEye

MyEye glasses are really a framework for holding a small camera and speaker kit next to the user's ear. This is able to 'read' text to the user as well as recognising up to 125 recorded faces.

OrCam UK  
www.orcam.com



### Accessible kitchens

Every kitchen in the Howdens range is available as an inclusive kitchen, guaranteeing a broad choice of styles and a thoughtful, accessible and well-presented layout. Designs can incorporate easy access to cabinets, lower worktops for sinks and preparation areas, as well as mobile units for ease of access during use as well as small but clever touches such as contrasting handles on doors that help visually impaired people.

www.howdens.com



## Vivago Care Watch Named Best In Show By Able Magazine

The Able Magazine Naidex Best In Show Awards have been a staple part of the Birmingham disability event for a number of years. The 2017 award was scooped by Living Safely and their excellent, Vivago Care Watch.

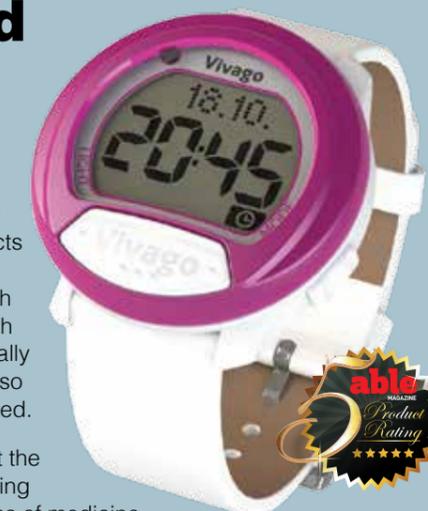
The watch monitors micro movements and other physiological details to build up a profile of the user's circadian rhythms enabling carers and healthcare professionals to better understand the user's habits and needs. Interruptions to the data patterns can be used to trigger alarms for urgent help or to interpret symptoms that might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Able Magazine presented the award to Peter Holland of Living Safely, who said: "I can't tell you how chuffed we are!

There's obviously a lot of very good innovative products here and to be picked out of such an amazing bunch of exhibitors is really quite something, so we're really pleased.

We're hoping that the Care Watch is going to bridge the areas of medicine and telecare. It provides a genuinely effective solution for vulnerable people, especially when they're alone in their own home."

www.livingsafely.com



### Other Naidex 2017 Highlights...

- Being part of the judging panel of the Naidex Innovation Award - won by OrCam UK for their excellent, MyEye glasses.

- Attending the presentation given by Director of The German National Tourist Board, Klaus Lohman, on their 'Feeling Fearless' travel opportunities.
- Meeting readers and many of our commercial partners. It's good to talk.