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MEDICAL ENGINEERING RESOURCE UNIT

## **MERU launches innovative new products for people with disabilities**

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**Two new, 'off the shelf' products will be launched at NAIDEX, the UK's leading exhibition for the homecare and disability market. Moozi<sup>®</sup> and Flexzi<sup>®</sup> have been created by MERU, the London-based charity that custom-makes equipment for children and young people with disabilities.**

**These innovative products are designed to meet the needs of a wider audience, including adults, and generate much-needed funding to support MERU's work.**

**MERU is particularly keen to recruit potential dealers and distributors, as the charity does not have the resources to distribute the products widely itself.**

The MERU Flexzi<sup>®</sup> is a simple, light, economic way to position switches, buttons, PDAs etc. exactly where they're needed – without fiddly, expensive bracket and rod systems.

Developed in response to requests from therapists, users, carers and teachers, Flexzi<sup>®</sup> is a strong, flexible tube that is easy to position at any angle and in a wide variety of shapes. It comes with a Velcro top, for attaching the equipment to be used, and either a Velcro or clamp base for attaching Flexzi<sup>®</sup> to a chair, table, desk or tray. What's more, any wires can be run inside the tubing, so it's neater and safer too.

Occupational Therapist Ruth Peachment, who works with and advises MERU, explains Flexzi<sup>®</sup>'s appeal: "The biggest benefit is its simplicity. No equipment or expertise is needed to fit Flexzi and you can use it to position a wide range of equipment within reach of the user. If it is moved or accidentally knocked out of position, it is simple for the user or carer to bend the Flexzi back. The cost is also a lot more affordable than other systems on the market."

Flexzi<sup>®</sup> comes in three standard lengths: 15, 30 and 45cm. Custom sizes are available on request. The cost ranges from £70 to £90, depending on size, plus P&P. Flexzi comes with a Velcro base as standard - the clamp base costs an additional £15.00.



## NEW PRODUCTS FROM MERU/...2

Also launching at NAIDEX is the MERU **Moozi**<sup>®</sup> – the first ever low-profile switch joystick for children and adults. Unlike conventional joysticks, which can be quite tall, Moozi is designed so that the user can hold their hand in a natural, comfortable position. This makes control much easier and reduces potential arm strain and fatigue.

Moozi<sup>®</sup> was originally designed to enable small children to drive Bugzi<sup>®</sup>, MERU's award-winning powered wheelchair for pre-school children. However, Moozi<sup>®</sup> can be used to drive any wheelchair equipped with the Dynamic DX Masterswitch control system. And by using adaptors it can also operate other switch-controlled devices, including a computer mouse. (Adaptors are not supplied by MERU but the manufacturers of the other device should be able to provide information.)

Peter Swann, Head of Product Development for MERU, says Moozi<sup>®</sup> has many advantages over standard joysticks: "Moozi has a smooth, light sliding action – so with the right choice of handle even very young children can soon use it with ease. Moozi's flat base makes it simple to position on a tray or table-top, using Velcro or a non-slip mat – no more struggling with complex brackets or fixed mountings!"

Moozi<sup>®</sup> comes in six attractive colourways, designed to appeal to both adults and children, and with a choice of four different-shaped handles. Custom colours and handle designs are available on request. All elements of Moozi<sup>®</sup> comply with medical devices regulations and the product is CE marked. It retails at £125.00 plus P&P.

Along with Bugzi<sup>®</sup> and examples of MERU's custom-made equipment, both products will be available at NAIDEX and also by contacting MERU. Telephone: 020 8770 8286. Email: [info@meru.org.uk](mailto:info@meru.org.uk). Web: [www.meru.org.uk](http://www.meru.org.uk).

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:** Please contact Sue Burch at MERU for further information or to be emailed product images: [sue@meru.org.uk](mailto:sue@meru.org.uk). 020 8770 8286.