People with disabilities who require powered mobility assistance currently have no choice other than electric devices with expensive, slow-charging batteries. These devices are also incapable of being exposed to wet environments due to the electronics used to drive them. As a result, users are restricted from participating in water activities – such as going to a pool, waterpark, or beach – and users must transfer out of the device when it’s time to take a shower. The PneuMobility devices are driven using only compressed air, which removes the need for electronics. Without batteries on board, our devices weigh a fraction of electric powered devices, recharge in minutes, and no longer require expensive battery replacement. Not only could that save the user up to $500 per year, but it also removes the hassle of proper battery disposal.

**Technology Description**

The PneuMobility system consists of air tanks, air powered motors, air lines, and control valves. This air-powered design reduces maintenance, and anyone with basic technical skills can troubleshoot a problem if one arises. The compressed air supply can be recharged an infinite number of times without losing performance, can be thrown away without any environmental concerns, and doesn’t need to be replaced during the lifetime of the mobility device. While battery-powered devices can take up to eight hours to recharge, PneuMobility air tanks take only 10 minutes to refill.

**Advantages**
- Lightweight
- Waterproof
- Quick recharge time
- Removes the need for expensive and environmentally-hazardous batteries

**Applications**
- Home use, including showering
- Recreation that involves getting wet (e.g., waterparks, public pools, beaches)
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Airports

**Stage of Development**

Prototypes of the PneuChair and PneuScooter have been designed and created. The PneuChair has undergone standards testing.

**IP Status**

An International PCT application was filed in January 2017. These technologies are available for licensing (excluding US waterparks).
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Dr. Cooper is the Founding Director and VA Senior Research Career Scientist of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, a VA Rehabilitation R&D Center of Excellence in partnership with Pitt. Dr. Cooper has authored or co-authored over 300 peer-reviewed journal publications and has 20 patents awarded or pending. He is the author of two books and co-editor of two more, including the award-winning Care of the Combat Amputee.

Dr. Cooper is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, as well as RESNA, IEEE, AIMBE, and BMES. In 2017 he was awarded the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal – the Oscar for government service – for his innovations aimed at helping disabled veterans and other Americans.

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Mr. Daveler is a graduate student researcher at the Human Engineering Research Laboratories. He is currently working towards his PhD in Rehabilitation Science and Technology from the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on the design and development of assistive technology specifically powered wheelchairs.

Brandon is also a person with a disability due to a spinal cord injury from a motocross accident in 2005. As a wheelchair user for over a decade, he has become an expert in wheelchair and assistive technology and applies his experiences and knowledge to solving problems for other individuals with disabilities.

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