



Contact: Abe Hopper (443) 262 9869
Vexel Automotion, www.Quovis.com
P.O. Box 389, Centreville, MD 21617 USA

January 6, 2006

PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NO STEERING WHEEL FOR NEW QUOVIS

Centreville, Maryland, USA. Wheelchair users with limited range of motion in their upper body will now be able to drive The Quovis®. It was announced today that Vexel Automotion, the Quovis importer, has entered into a joint venture with Electronic Mobility Controls, LLC (EMC) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana to create a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) for individuals with high level disabilities. By utilizing aerospace electronics, which EMC calls Advanced Electronic Vehicle Interface Technology (AEVIT® "X-Wire"), this new Quovis will have no steering wheel or mechanical controls. The steering, speed and brakes will be controlled by a joystick and the power accessories will be controlled with voice activation.

Introduced last year, Quovis is a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) purpose built for wheelchair users. This urban vehicle allows the user to quickly enter via an automatic ramp, dock the wheelchair and drive away without seat changes. Although the standard Quovis is equipped with hand controls for speed and brake, steering wheel, power accessories and air-conditioning, the wheelchair user must have full upper body mobility to operate the LSV.



Abe Hopper, President/ CEO of Vexel Automotion said, "we are getting calls and e-mails daily from physically challenged wheelchair users that want to drive themselves to work or the store without assistance. They want independence but their limited upper body movement rules out most conventional automotive controls and adaptations. EMC's "X-Wire" engineering is significant because it opens an exciting new world and independence for many people."



EMC will engineer and install, AEVIT "X-Wire", drive-by-wire systems in the Quovis. This Aerospace Technology (fly-by-wire concepts) has been employed in airplane avionic systems successfully for many years. In "by-wire" systems, the direct mechanical control of a machine is replaced by electronic control. For example, the movement made by the driver with the *joystick*

is not transmitted mechanically via the steering column, through to the steering rack, and then to the front wheels as in conventional control. Instead, the driver's physical movement on the *joystick*, is sensed and converted into a digital electronic signal that is transmitted to intelligent Drive Modules (computers) that in turn command intelligent Electromechanical Servos to steer the front wheels. The same method of control is applied to the braking and acceleration of the vehicle.

Scott Bolduc, President/ CEO of EMC said, "I am quite excited about the Quovis project because it enhances our AEVIT® Driving program. In this program a therapist or clinician must assess critical cognitive and physical skills to determine whether or not a client has the ability to operate a vehicle safely and effectively. The computer generated scenes in our driver training AEVIT® Driving Simulator allows operators to experience "real world" situations and obstacles, using the x-wire controls. But nothing beats the actual driving experience on the road in a real vehicle. I see the Quovis LSV as the next step in AEVIT® Driver training. With the AEVIT® x-wire installed in the Quovis, the clinician remains in complete control (with a master control box) of the Quovis. The client gets the needed road time, on a closed course, while passing milestones to driving independence. It is best to train in the vehicle you will likely drive and the best choice would be the Quovis LSV for urban travel. Frankly, given the choice between placing a newly trained driver in a vehicle capable of 100 mph speeds or a Quovis LSV, the Quovis is the winner every time."

The Quovis® with AEVIT® x-wire and no steering wheel will be introduced to Dealers at the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA) in February. The Quovis with AEVIT® is integrated into the Quovis electrical system by Vexel and EMC. It is not available as a EMC certified Dealer installed option. More information is available at www.Quovis.com and www.emc-digi.com.

