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People Helping People Achieve

ComTEC Email Network – Autumn 2009

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What's New on the Market?

- **Tellus Mobii** from Zyteq. - The Tellus Mobi is a portable tablet computer with communication software loaded. It is a speech generating device which can be used to communicate via text-to-speech or pre-stored messages with symbol support. The Mobi can be supplied with Mind Express software for communication. The Grid 2 can also be supplied.
<http://www.zytec.com.au/products/communication%20systems/tellusmobi.html>
- **Megabee** from Spectronics – this is communication aid without voice output, which allows eye-gaze and partner assistance to choose letters. A trail of letters is electronically presented. There is an LCD display on each side of the tablet, visible to reader and writer.
<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/megabee>
- **Choose It Maker 2 – “Ready made” activities** have been released recently. These are sets of pre-made pages targeting literacy & listening skills which work within the Choose It Maker software. There are also numeracy and story telling activities available. You can run these activities within the free player, but if you want to customise them you will need to purchase the full version of Choose It Maker 2 (sold separately).
<http://www.novitatech.org.au/productlist.asp?p=247&id=45&c=0>
<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/catalogue/chooseit-ready-mades-literacy-series>
- **Tango for Adults** is now available. Tango for Adults functions in the same way as Tango for Teens or Tango for Children – but the vocabulary and Talk Topics have been adjusted to be age appropriate. You can request a trial of a Tango for Adults through the Spectronics' equipment trial scheme.
<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/tango-for-adults>

Hot News

- **New additions** to our Electronic Equipment Library include:
 - Tellus Smart from Zyteq
<http://www.zytec.com.au/products/communication%20systems/TellusSmart.html>
 - Springboard Lite from Liberator
<http://www.liberator.net.au/index.php/products/high-tech-communication-aids/springboard-lite>

- Following discussions with the manufacturer of the most common commercially available mounting systems in use Technability has released a **position statement regarding the use of mounts when transporting in a motor vehicle**:
 - It is Technability's opinion that no wheelchair Mount or wheelchair Mounted device, including those of the DAESSY system, should ever be left in front of a user-occupied wheelchair in a motor vehicle when transporting. We have based this opinion on considerations of all occupant safety in accordance with AS 2942-1994, A4.7 and from consultation with the manufacturer. Daedalus Technologies Inc, the makers of DAESSY Mounting Systems, also state that their DAESSY products are not designed for use in a vehicle. (See full statement in attached pdf)

Upcoming events

- **AGOSCI 9th Biennial National Conference**: 7 – 9 May 2009 Canberra, Australia. Visit www.agosci.org.au for program, registration details
- **Motor Neurone Disease Association conference**: The 5th National MND Conference will be hosted by MND NSW in Sydney on Tuesday 23 June 2009. The theme of the conference is Care, Advocacy, Research, Excellence. For further details please visit the website: <http://www.mndaust.asn.au/news/annual-national-mnd-conference>
- **“Chat Now” training workshops - May, August and October 2009**: Chat Now – Don't start from scratch! Use CHAT–NOW to create aided language materials. Who should attend: Working in the field of early childhood speech pathology or other early childhood intervention service area eg therapist/teacher and supporting young children with complex communication needs within a family/person centred context. See the website for course content, registration and costs: http://www.scopevic.org.au/therapy_crc_events_training.html

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