

Q'STRAIT

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Press Release

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Q'STRAIT'S FULLY AUTOMATIC WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT SYSTEM OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AND READY FOR SALE

Quantum is the transportation industry's first securement system of its kind, designed to ensure new levels of safety and independence for mobility passengers

In October 2013 Quantum, the industry's first fully automatic rear-facing wheelchair securement station for virtually any bus or rail – car was showcased at its first major international show, Busworld in Kortijk. It was very well received and won a European Coach and Bus Week innovation label Award. It has since been further enhanced with the addition of a new Backrest for a complete stand-alone system. The back rest is optional and is designed to reduce head and neck injuries for wheelchair users.

The revolutionary new product was developed by combining transportation insight, intelligent technology and a pioneering new approach to securement. After boarding a bus or rail car, Quantum allows wheelchair and scooter passengers to position their chair and by simply pushing a button to secure themselves in a stable and safe rear-facing position without driver assistance. The process takes under 25 seconds.

QUANTUM **PAGE 2**

“In addition to ensuring the highest level of passenger safety, keeping buses on schedule and preventing tip-overs, Quantum provides a more respectful experience to the process of wheelchair securement,” said Bob Joseph, Q’Straint VP of Business Development. “Now safe securement and release is fully automated.”

In the past, drivers would take additional time to affix straps to harness the chair, potentially invading the passenger’s personal space. With Quantum, all passengers are treated equally

Quantum systems are now in place across the USA and the UK is following suit. In early March the Quantum was successfully fitted for the first time in real life application in to a Wrightbus Gemini double decker at East Yorkshire Motor Services (EYMS).

On the 05th August Q’Straint invited Helen Dolphin MBE, Director of Policy and Campaigns for the charity Disabled Motoring UK to trial the Quantum in situ on an actual bus route. Being an occasional wheelchair user herself Helen was able to give an insight in to the issues that wheelchair users face when using public transport as well as share her thoughts and feelings on the Quantum.

Helen knows only too well that an extremely important issue for disabled people travelling on a bus is safety. “I have often found myself nearly tipping over in my manual wheelchair when bus has taken a corner a bit sharpish, I was therefore delighted when Q’Straint invited me to try out a new piece of equipment designed to secure wheelchairs and scooters on the bus” Helen says.

Helen along with representatives from Q’Straint and some members of the press took a journey through Hull on the EYMS double decker. The journey began with Helen seamlessly boarding the bus, backing in to the wheelchair space and securing herself by “pressing a large flashing Green button”, within 20 seconds 2 arms were securely holding her wheelchair in place.

QUANTUM **PAGE 3**

Helen reported “I tried my best to escape from the arms securing me but my wheelchair did not budge. This bus could have driven a slalom course and I would have remained exactly where I was locked in. I felt completely safe and secure.”

“The Quantum ensures the highest level of passenger safety whilst also giving wheelchair users the independence to automatically self-secure without driver assistance. It provides ground breaking new levels of safety and accessibility and we are delighted to see the first UK installation on board an East Yorkshire Motor Services bus,” said Andy Cumming, Managing Director.

Q'Straint continues to roll out the Quantum across the UK with the latest installation with Lothian buses. The unit has been installed on a new for 2015 Volvo Wrightbus Hybrid, and will be servicing a highly dependent wheelchair user route.

Lothian buses operate over 70 services in Edinburgh and surrounding areas of Midlothian and East Lothian and have a fleet of 721 vehicles

Q'Straint is also in discussions with many major European bus manufacturers and operators and is very excited by the reception Quantum has received, we're now at the stage where we are discussing detailed installations, most definitely a leap in the right direction

How Quantum Works

Q'Straint engineers applied the highest levels of industrial design to ensure Quantum delivers the performance to keep passengers safe and operators productive. When the vehicle is safely stopped, the Quantum unit is ready for the wheelchair passenger. Once the passenger's wheelchair is centered against the backrest, the press of a button engages the automatic locking sequence. Integration with existing vehicle electrical and interlock systems

QUANTUM PAGE 4

prevents accidental release of a secured wheelchair while the vehicle is in motion. Quantum is being introduced after one year of extensive field tests in severe driving conditions.

Industry Benefits

Operators will benefit immediately and profoundly with reduced dwell time when securing passengers in mobility devices which will result in more reliable schedules. More evolved than manual tie-downs, Quantum puts an end to challenging securement maneuvers that upset passengers and put drivers at risk of personal injury. By safely securing wheelchairs and scooters, Quantum ultimately reduces liability exposure for injuries to mobility passengers as well as to seated or standing commuters who could be injured by unsecured mobility devices.

Visit Q'Straint at Busworld on stand R20, Rambla North and see a demonstration of the Quantum Securement System.

About Q'Straint:

For over 25 years, Q'Straint has remained focused on one mission: To develop the most innovative solutions that advance the safety and effectiveness of wheelchair passenger travel. Our reputation as a global leader is the result of making transportation safety and customer needs the highest priority. We are committed to continued product leadership and innovation; we have the most exhaustive and comprehensive research and testing programs; and for more than two decades have played a key role in developing regional and international safety standards. Today, our diverse global staff serves customers in more than 50 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Australasia, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. For more information visit QStraint.com. Become a Q'Straint friend on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/QStraint> and follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/qstraint>.

