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PRESS RELEASE

Q'STRAIT LAUNCHES REVOLUTIONARY FLEX-I-TRANS ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE SYSTEM AT EUROBUS EXPO

On Stand 5/F 24 at Eurobus Expo 2010 (NEC, 2–4 Nov), Q'Strait – the world-leading wheelchair passenger safety specialist, will be launching the Flex-i-Trans system which will revolutionise the interior layout and functionality of accessible mini-buses.

Q'Strait based in Whitstable, Kent, is renowned for supplying the most universal, easy to use wheelchair and occupant safety restraints in the world and the addition of Flex-i-Trans to its range continues this superb heritage. Flex-i-Trans from Q'Strait delivers a unique solution that provides maximum internal layout versatility for accessible vehicles. It can be installed in a wide selection of vehicles including variants from the front and side access Ford Transit, Volkswagen Crafter and Mercedes-Benz Sprinter ranges. It consists of a system that provides in-built retractors, fixing points and fold-away seats so the internal layout of the vehicle is totally multi-functional and offers fast conversion from standard seating to wheelchair accommodating space. With Flex-i-Trans, the floor of the vehicle is clutter-free as it does not contain any loose components and all restraint equipment is fixed within the vehicle so that retractors cannot be removed or lost.

The ergonomic, fold-away seats, which are fixed to the side shell of the vehicle, can be stored quickly and with minimal effort. A click system ensures that these seats are deployed or stowed correctly and the dynamic components glide into position easily eliminating the possibility of back strain for drivers. Once the fixed seats are folded away, wheelchair occupants can be accommodated and secured via the in-built restraints. These four-point wheelchair restraints comprise of Q'Strait retractors that are sunk into the floor well so that a flush, fully accessible surface is provided throughout the vehicle. They deliver easy, one-handed operation and are combined with occupant restraints that employ a third point upper anchorage as recommended by Q'Strait for optimum passenger geometry. Another unique and innovative feature of the wheelchair restraint system is that all of the retractors can be simultaneously locked via a dashboard mounted control button. Overall, the Flex-i-Trans system has been

comprehensively tested by TÜV and complies with PSVAR 2000 (Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000) and 2001/85/EC (Bus Directive), hence straightforward compliance with all EU regulatory bodies.

From a fleet operator point of view, Flex-i-Trans from Q'Straint delivers impressive cost savings through increased versatility of vehicles. Enhanced by the utmost levels of engineering quality, reliability and usability, Flex-i-Trans represents a revolution in the interior workings of an accessible vehicle. Mike Simmonds, Q'Straint Managing Director concluded, "Working in partnership with our Dutch colleagues, Flex-i-Trans we believe, is a remarkable solution to a long standing versatility issue. Engineered with the highest calibre components and demonstrating that renowned Dutch flair for design, Flex-i-Trans will deliver real value for all individuals involved with accessible community and private transport. The team and myself continually take pride in pioneering new approaches to wheelchair occupant safety, so that every passenger that travels with Q'Straint onboard has reassurance all the way."

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Notes for the Editor: Q'Straint (Europe) Limited

Presented with the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2007, Q'Straint is a world-leading multi-national specialising in wheelchair passenger safety solutions. For over 25 years, it has consistently pioneered the most universal range of restraint systems for use in most vehicle applications that deliver the highest levels of safety, durability and reliability. Rigorously tested and fully exceeding all international standards, Q'Straint securement systems are designed to be fully universal and easy-to-use. This continually ensures that vehicle specifiers, converters, drivers and passengers worldwide regard Q'Straint as first choice for total peace of mind.

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