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**PDG Product Design Group's Fuze T50 Wheelchair Wins 2008 Medical Design Excellence Award**

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VANCOUVER, BC, April 14, 2008 – PDG Product Design Group, a leading designer and manufacturer of special-application wheelchairs, has been selected as a winner in the 2008 Medical Design Excellence Awards (MDEA) competition, the premier awards program for the medical technology community.



PDG's Fuze T50 Manual Tilt-in-Space wheelchair took top MDEA award honours in the Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Products category. The Medical Design Excellence Awards competition is organized and presented by Canon Communications LLC (Los Angeles) and sponsored by Medical Device & Diagnostic Industry (MD&DI) magazine. It is the premier awards program exclusively recognizing contributions and advances in the design of medical products.

Individuals with moderate to severe disabilities often require a wheelchair where the seat and back can tilt to improve trunk stability and head control in addition to providing much needed pressure relief. Such wheelchairs can require significant force to move the weight of the occupant as the seat is tilted. The Fuze T50 award winning design benefits both patients and caregivers.

Features of the Fuze T50 wheelchair that contributed to winning this award:

- Placing the tilt pivot-point of the Fuze T50 so that it is coincident with the occupant's centre of gravity, PDG successfully designed a wheelchair that an attendant can tilt with minimal effort. The single-pivot tilt design contributes to easy, effortless tilt, regardless of client weight.
- The use of a well balanced manual tilt mechanism benefits both patients and caregivers. Manual-tilt wheelchairs are used in both acute and long-term care facilities. In these facilities, caregivers may need to change the tilt position for patients many times per day. If the mechanism requires significant effort to operate, the act of tilting patients can contribute to fatigue and injuries for caregivers. The Fuze T50 dramatically reduces the effort needed to adjust patient position, thereby improving caregiver safety and facilitating ease of patient management. More frequent change in position (change in tilt) ensures patient comfort and postural correction will increase.
- The Fuze T50 is one of several configurations available in a series of chairs with the ability to convert from one wheelchair configuration to another. Patients often have considerable difficulty getting used to a new wheelchair as their needs change. The Fuze series of wheelchairs allows a patient to keep the same wheelchair, making it adapt to changing client need, a better way to keep wheelchair users happy and independent. A Fuze conversion kit used to make these changes costs about 1/3 the price of purchasing a new wheelchair.

Presentation of the 2008 MDEA awards will take place on Wednesday, June 4, in a ceremony at the Medical Design & Manufacturing (MD&M) East 2008 Conference and Exposition, in New York City.

**About PDG Product Design Group**

PDG designs & manufactures mobility products for clients with extra special needs. We work collaboratively with rehabilitation technology practitioners & providers, developing unique solutions to a wide variety of mobility challenges. PDG products are designed with a focus on maximum independent user function. PDG is headquartered in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

For more information, visit [www.pdgmobility.com/](http://www.pdgmobility.com/) or call +1-604-323-9220 or toll free (in North America): 1-888-858-4422.

**About the Medical Design Excellence Awards**

For more information about the Medical Design Excellence Awards, visit <http://www.devicelink.com/expo/awards06/home/>.

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