

Auto-repositioning of eye-gaze devices and other essential equipment



BlueSky Designs is one of four winners of the First Phase of the Assistive Technology Challenge offered by the ALS Association in partnership with Prize4Life. Thank you, Ice Bucket Challenge! Winning teams will develop functioning prototypes of novel communication technologies that help people with ALS communicate with ease.

BlueSky Designs is expanding the capability of our power mount to enable automatic positioning of communication, hydration and suctioning devices by people with ALS and others. When people who use eye-gaze are not in a calibrated position, they cannot access their device. This technology addresses that issue and more. We ask that you complete this questionnaire so we can better understand the needs and design an appropriate solution. It should take 5-10 minutes.

Thanks for taking your time to help shape this new technology!

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____

Phone (optional): _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Country: _____

Please return this survey to: info@blueskydesigns.us

1. Do you have experience with eye-gaze systems?

- ☐ I use one myself ☐ A family member uses one
☐ I sell them ☐ I evaluate and set up systems for my clients
☐ No, I don't have experience with eye gaze systems

2. Do you have experience in calibrating an eye-gaze system?

- ☐ Yes
☐ If Yes, rate the ease/difficulty of recalibrating a system, where 1 is very easy, and 5 very difficult
☐ No

3. In your experience, how often do devices need to be recalibrated?

- ☐ Initial set-up only ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Daily ☐ Several times a day

4. Who usually recalibrates a person's eye gaze system?

- ☐ Family member ☐ Attendant ☐ Therapist/specialist

5. How is the device recalibrated?

- ☐ reposition the person ☐ reposition the device ☐ both

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6. How long does it take to recalibrate the device for a person?

☐ < 5 minutes ☐ 5-15 minutes ☐ > 15 minutes

7. How long does the person typically wait (without access) before someone recalibrates it? _____ minutes _____ hours

8. If you reposition the device, what positioning adjustments do you usually make?

☐ change the distance from the person ☐ change the tilt angle ☐ change the entire mount set-up
☐ change the height of the mount ☐ rotate the display

9. Rate the ease/difficulty of repositioning the device, with 1 being very easy to 5 being very difficult: _____

Auto-repositioning: A motorized power mount is being developed which can automatically move a device to a specific position relative to a person's face for different purposes.

10. Do you think an Auto-repositioning device would be helpful for you or your clients?

☐ Yes, very! ☐ Maybe ☐ Not really

11. Please rate the importance of the following uses, with 1 being Very important, and 5 Not at all important.

☐ positions a speech device or computer to a calibrated position for eye-gaze access
☐ moves a tube to a person's mouth for suctioning
☐ moves a tube to a person's mouth for hydration
☐ moves a device to or away from a person at a certain time of day
☐ list other possible uses: _____

12. How would you like auto-repositioning to be initiated? Rank the items in order of preference (1-4)

☐ A person activates a switch
☐ A person makes a sound
☐ It repositions itself based on the time of day
☐ Every so often, the system looks to see if it's calibrated. If not, it adjusts its position as needed
☐ Any of the above, based on the person
☐ Other ideas (describe): _____

13. Where would you find this helpful? (rank in order of importance, with 1 as Most important)

☐ In bed ☐ in a wheelchair ☐ at a workstation ☐ in the community ☐ at school/work

Thank you for your input!

If you would like to participate in or be kept abreast of this research, please let us know how you'd like to be involved:

☐ I'd like to be informed on research progress ☐ I'd be happy to complete more surveys
☐ I'd like to test a prototype ☐ Let me know when it's available

Feel free to pass along this survey to others!

For more information, contact Dianne Goodwin at 612-724-7002 or email her at dianne@blueskydesigns.us