

Mainstream Tech News March 2023

Welcome, Wireless RERC team! As part of an innovative team, it is important to be aware of how companies and organizations are improving and integrating Mainstream Wireless Tech.

Wireless RERC Updates:

Research Recruitment

The [Research Recruitment](#) page on our website is now live! We are actively seeking participants for two research studies.

The first study aims to explore how smart speakers can be made more accessible to individuals with disabilities. The second study aims to evaluate the ASSIST intervention focusing on smart home tech in individuals with complex disabilities. Check out both flyers to learn more about the studies and see if you or someone you know are eligible!



External Resources Page

We are eager to share that our [External Resources](#) section on our website now offers an extensive range of [Smart Home Technology](#) resources. We organized our resources into user-friendly “toolboxes” that include Matter, Amazon, Apple, and Google. We are also thrilled to feature [Smart Homes Made Simple](#), a guide by our partners at [Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation \(PATF\)](#). This comprehensive guide is specifically tailored to individuals with disabilities to help them navigate the world of smart home technology.

We encourage you to explore these resources at your convenience and discover the full range of features and capabilities available to you through mainstream smart home tech.

International Seating Symposium (ISS)

We are excited to announce that the Wireless RERC will be exhibiting at the upcoming [38th International Seating Symposium \(ISS\)](#), taking place from April 13-15 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. If you're attending the conference, we invite you to stop by our booth and say hello!

Wireless RERC Updates (continued):

Smart Tech Talk: Live with Lindsey

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who submitted questions and/or participated in our live Smartphones Access session, which took place on March 17. If you missed the live session, don't worry! The session was recorded and is now available on the Wireless RERC's YouTube channel. Simply follow [this link](#) to watch the recording.

We're thrilled to have the opportunity to connect with our community in this way and to address your questions and concerns regarding mainstream wireless tech use among individuals with disabilities. We would love to hear from you about what topics you would like us to cover.

If you have a topic request or a question for us, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at wirelessrerc@shrs.pitt.edu. Once we determine the topic for our next session, we will be sure to provide information on how you can join us.



Tech News:

How Tech to Make Homes Safer and More Comfortable for People with Dementia — This Forbes article covers topics such as home modifications, technology solutions, and practical tips for caregivers. The article suggests that mainstream wireless technologies, such as smart contact sensors, smart thermostats, smart doorbells, smart lighting, smart smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, circadian lighting, digital voice assistants, and wearable devices, can all help improve the quality of life and safety of individuals with dementia.

You may be interested in a [virtual video tour](#) of an apartment built in Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)'s New York City headquarters that showcases how practical design and technology can enhance quality of life for those living with dementia and assist family caregivers in ensuring their loved ones' safety.



Tech News (continued):

XanderGlasses — XanderGlasses are smart glasses, powered by Vuzix, that use augmentative reality (AR) to enhance daily, in-person communication for those affected by hearing loss. It features an unobtrusive caption display that allows wearers to easily follow conversations while looking directly at the speaker and their surroundings. With XanderGlasses, people who are hard of hearing could clearly understand who is speaking to them, whether at home, work, or in a noisy public venue, helping them feel more confident and relaxed during conversations.

Small Chips, Big Aspirations — The xG27 is a new chipset designed by Silicon Labs for use in wearable medical devices to monitor various health conditions. The chip is small and energy-efficient, enabling new ideas in the medical technology field. One potential use is a saliva reader that can be attached to a tooth or placed in a smart retainer to monitor saliva and detect more than 1,000 health conditions. Other potential applications for the chip include medical patches, continuous glucose monitors, and wearable EKGs.

FCC approves Amazon's Satellite Broadband Plan over SpaceX's Objections

— The article reports on the FCC's approval of Amazon's satellite broadband plan. The plan aims to build a network of 3,236 satellites in low-Earth orbit and provide high-speed internet to anywhere in the world. The article also discusses the potential impact on the space industry and the competitive landscape between Amazon and SpaceX in the race to provide global internet connectivity.



The HomePod Mini's New Bundle of Features — After updating your device to iOS 16.3 and the HomePod software to version 16.3, you will notice several new HomePod features. These features include the ability to sense temperature and humidity, track family members using iOS devices, set up Apple Home automation using your voice, and add ambient sounds like ocean, white noise, and rain to scenes, automations, and alarms.

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