

Official Launch for London's Turny Equipped Dial-A-Ride Vehicles

Another milestone was reached for Autoadapt's Community effort on May 24th when the official launch of London Dial-A-Ride's new car fleet featuring two Turny Orbits in each vehicle. The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said: "These newly designed Dial-a-Ride vehicles will significantly improve the quality of transport service we can offer disabled people in London." At least another 50 of these vehicles will enter service later this year.



The launch of the car fleet was held at London's City Hall.

The 33 new vehicles are modified Mercedes Vitos with room for one wheelchair passenger in the back. They also feature two Turny Orbits in the mid-section. The vehicles have been very well received. "It's a lovely smooth ride... the new vehicle is intimate, instead of intimidating" Dial-a-Ride customer Gohar Haigh says.



Autoadapt UK's Don Beattie tries the Turny Orbit in one of London Dial-A-Ride's new vehicles.



A Dial-A-Ride customer tries out the Turny Orbit at the official launch of Dial-A-Ride's new fleet.

London's Dial-A-Ride is a door-to-door transport service for disabled people who cannot use public transportation. The smaller size and flexibility of the new vehicles compared to the existing fleet make them more appropriate for the way people actually use the service - most Dial-a-Ride journeys just have one or two passengers per trip. The development of the modified car was organised by Salvador Caetano Coachbuilders Ltd.