



### IT'S A PLANE, IT'S A CAR, NO, IT'S A TRANSITION ROAD N' AIR CRAFT



Terrafugia, Inc located in Woburn, Massachusetts is the brain child of MIT graduates of the school of Aeronautic and Astronautics. Terrafugia translated from

Latin means "escape from land." The official specification provided by Terrafugia of the craft is a two seat, side-by-side light sports aircraft.

The Transition is designed for short hops with a range of 460 miles or less. It utilizes Super-unleaded gasoline as a source of fuel. It has a take off distance over 50 foot obstacles of 1700 feet.

The designers have left nothing overlooked in the design for strength and endurance. The wings have two blue bumper strips near the tip of the wings to prevent door dings when Transition is in its road mode. There are dual electromagnetic locks that when engaged for the road mode, provide a tight hold on the wing close to the fuselage. The prototype is currently a work in progress, with an anticipated completion date of late 2008. Terrafugia, Inc plans to make its first delivery of the Transcend in 2009. The anticipated selling price of Transcend is \$148,000. Currently, the company is taking pre-release orders requiring a five per cent deposit that will be held in trust and fully reimbursable until a purchase agreement is executed.

Source: PhysOrg.com  
<http://www.physorg.com/news111410724.html>  
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### PARALYZED MAN WALKS IN VIRTUAL WORLD

A paralyzed man using only his brain waves has been able to manipulate an avatar on Second Life. In the experiment, he wore headgear with three electrodes monitoring brain waves related to his hands and legs. Even though he cannot move his legs, he imagined that his character was walking.

He was then able to have a conversation with the other character using an attached microphone, said the researchers at Japan's Keio University.

It is the first time a paralysis patient has succeeded in meeting a person and having a conversation in an internet virtual world, said the researchers at Japan's Keio University.

Source: PhysOrg.com  
<http://www.physorg.com/news131631464.html>  
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### BULLET PROOF NANOS

Engineers from the Centre for Advanced Materials TECHNOLOGY at the University of Sydney have found a way to use the elasticity of carbon nanotubes to not only stop bullets penetrating material but actually rebound their force.

Source: PhysOrg.com  
<http://physorg.com/news113028132.html>  
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### MONKEY CONTROLS ROBOTIC ARM



In a dramatic display of the potential of prosthetic arms, a monkey at the University of Pittsburgh was

able to use his brain to directly control a robotic arm and feed himself a marshmallow. The research, published in the journal *Nature*, is the first to show that an interface that converts brain signals directly into action is sophisticated enough to perform a practical function: eating. Researchers who led the work have just begun human tests of a related technology.

Source: Technology Review  
<http://www.technologyreview.com/>  
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### 15 HUMAN GENOMES SEQUENCED EACH WEEK

The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute has sequenced the equivalent of 300 human genomes in just over six months. The Institute has just reached the staggering total of 1,000,000,000,000 letters of genetic code that will be read by researchers worldwide, helping them to understand the role of genes in health and disease. Scientists will be able to answer questions unthinkable even a few years ago and human medical genetics will be transformed.

The amount of data is remarkable: every two minutes, the Institute produces as much sequence as was deposited in the first five years of the international DNA sequence databases, which started in 1982. It is a global milestone.

Source: PhysOrg.com  
<http://www.physorg.com/news134195974.html>