

Ekso Bionics technology and exoskeletons hit a homerun for paraplegics



Alyson Roth wears the device developed by Ekso Bionics, which is a battery-powered, robotic exoskeleton, designed to aid wheelchair users and those who have suffered from spinal chord injuries to stand and walk. (californiaandme on Youtube)



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Ekso Bionics exoskeletons for paraplegics and others with spinal injuries

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If you have watched someone suffer from a crippling disease as this writer has for 30 years (my Mom had MS), you can appreciate the robotic technology that is unfolding in Berkeley, CA. People once wheelchair bound are taking strolls through the park, walking at their favorite malls and even going to the local restaurants. All thanks to the medical breakthrough of **Ekso Bionics** and what they label “the human endeavor.”

The device was first launched four months ago at the London International Technology Show. Alyson Roth, of southern California, had the opportunity to be a test pilot for Ekso Bionics in Berkeley, CA in December 2011. This was the last place she was walking, so for her to take her first steps here again eleven years later was surreal.

<http://youtu.be/qKcwFFNJ6SQ>

“In the future we will introduce another device that is especially designed for homes,” explained CEO Eythor Bendor, Ekson Bionics. “That device will actually allow you to step into

it in the morning, go and have your breakfast, then drive off to work. You can even wear it to walk in the park and go to the ball game with your friends. You treat it as your companion the whole day.”

Ekso Bionics is committed to applying the latest technology and engineering to help people rethink their current physical limitations and achieve the remarkable. Originally Berkeley Bionics, Ekso Bionics was founded in Berkeley, California in 2005.

“When a person becomes paralyzed, a level of independence becomes robbed of them, it affects you psychologically, and your spirit dies,” said Co-Founder Amanda Boxtel of Challenge Aspen and a paraplegic since 1992. “I have visualized a contraption that would help me get up and walk. I thought is it going to be an avatar, a robot and then I received a phone call to try this new technology.

<http://youtu.be/D5bgZ1mO97M>

In 2005, Ekso Bionics entered into a licensing agreement with the University of California to commercialize the innovative, exoskeleton technology, which was developed at the robotics and human engineering laboratories,” said John Fogelin, Esko Bionics Engineering. Fogelin also said “eLegs is one of the most satisfying projects to work on, because it is an integration of so many interesting talents.” Fogelin notes that it combines mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and programming control and when you bring all those aspects together that’s when you achieve an innovative project.

Since inception Ekso Bionics has forged partnerships with world-class institutions like UC Berkeley, and it has received research grants from the Dept. of Defense and licensed the HULC™ technology to the Lockheed Martin Corporation. Today Ekso Bionics continues to pioneer the field of exoskeletons, designing and creating some of the most forward-thinking and innovative solutions for people looking to augment human mobility and capability. What’s next? A young paraplegic woman in Canada goes **bungee jumping** in her wheelchair. Now, she can walk to the lift with with a Esko Bionics pair of eLegs.