

## News Release

For immediate release October 2009

### **Announcing the UK launch of Spider Lifeline system – enhancing the options for disabled people to exit buildings in an emergency**

The Disability Discrimination Act and years of innovation and progress in building design and adaptation mean that disabled people now enjoy significantly increased access to thousands of buildings. Getting in is now so much easier – but what about getting out? In the event of an emergency, if lifts are out of action and stairwells potentially blocked, people with physical disabilities have limited exit options. As our buildings become higher and access options improve, there needs to be much greater focus on disabled egress.

**Announcing Spider Lifeline – the innovative rescue system new to the UK, specifically designed to provide an effective alternative escape route in emergency situations. No need to be afraid of this spider – it could save your life.**

The ground-breaking Spider Lifeline uses ‘fall-arrest’ technology to lower people to safety using a harness and strengthened steel cable, descending at a regulated speed that gets you out fast but without endangering others evacuating the building. The Spider Lifeline does not need any external power source and is suitable for all types of residential and office buildings, from a two-storey house to high-rise office or apartment blocks. The system can take up to 350lbs in weight, enabling adults to carry children down, and it includes an emergency braking mechanism. As people are brought safely to the ground, the harness can be returned quickly to the evacuation point for immediate re-use to bring more people down.

David Lowe, Spider Lifeline’s UK sales manager, says “Our work with charities and support organisations for the disabled has already demonstrated that Spider Lifeline will offer a significant additional option for the Personal Escape Plans for disabled people in this country, wherever they live and work. We believe all responsible employers should be investigating the benefits of this important new product.”

Norman Tebbit, chairman of Spider International Ltd, says “There has been a lot of activity in recent years to help disabled people to get into buildings, but nowhere near enough on how they get out. Being trapped in a burning building is the stuff of nightmares. Spider Lifeline is a way out of that nightmare. That is why I am backing the company.”

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors**

Try Spider Lifeline for yourself: we have two installations in London, one high-rise, one a bit lower – you choose! We’ll tip you or your nominated reporters out of the window and bring you down safely in the Spider Lifeline system.

To interview Lord Tebbit, David Lowe or for any more details, pictures and video clips about the Spider Lifeline system, contact Phil Taylor [ptaylor@altroy.co.uk](mailto:ptaylor@altroy.co.uk) 01895 622601 or 07905 916015.