Introducing the
Airglide 360™

Yesterday's challenge
Today's solution
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Yesterday's challenge

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Innova™ is different, distinctive, diverse.

Innova™ has a combined experience of over 200 years within the healthcare sector. We’ve used these 200 years wisely. We’ve tested and used equipment time and time again; we’ve traveled the world; we’ve spoken to thousands of end users, carers, healthcare professionals, architects, designers, and care institutions. In a nutshell, we know the market’s challenges and we’re finding solutions. We’re making use of our know-how to design and manufacture healthcare products the world has never seen before.

We aim to challenge the way things are being done in the healthcare sector, to design and develop new revolutionary products, and to change the way people think about care equipment. We want to think hard about aesthetics whilst focusing on function. And if we’ve enhanced quality of life along the way, we know we’ve achieved our goals.
How can hoist tracking be innovative, you’re probably asking? Well, granted, usually it’s not.

Enter AirGlide 360™ - a beautiful track system which utilises both technology and natural forces, offering the smoothest and most comfortable overhead hoist transfer in the world (we don’t think that’s just our opinion either!).
For some people, hoist tracking is their way of getting from A to B. Transfers take place every hour, from bed to bathroom, from chair to wheelchair, and so on. When we began to add up the amount of time that’s spent transferring, we started to think hard about how comfort could be improved for overhead hoist users. The seeds of an idea were sown, and AirGlide360™ was conceived.

To cut a long story short, we’ve worked with industry specialists to revolutionise the world of overhead hoist tracking. We’ve utilised the phenomenon of magnetism combined with the power of technology to create components to make the hoist glide smoothly from one place to the next. Not only that, we’ve made what used to be complicated procedures (such as moving from an X-Y system to a fixed track) completely cordless, buttonless, and effortless.

When the first pencil marks were being scribed on the drawing board, we asked ourselves the question “What’s important to patients and carers?” Safety was obviously a keyword, so we kept that firmly in our heads. ‘Comfort’, ‘Ease’, and ‘Flexibility’ were other words which sprung to mind.

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The backbone of any hoist tracking system is the rail itself. We couldn’t argue with that, even when we started right from scratch to revolutionise the overhead hoist concept.

When crafting the rail profile, the aim was to make it as sleek and as nice looking as we could. Although we say it ourselves, we’re quite chuffed with the end result! The style works really well for inserting into the ceiling, which not only looks neater and less clinical, but keeps the infection control department happy as well!

The design brief for the inside of the rail profile was a little different – we’ve created a shape which provides optimal control whilst cornering, produces very little noise, and allows the hoist unit to glide smoothly.

As we’ve been involved with hundreds of tracking installations in the past, we know the challenges that are faced with room shapes and sizes. 120mm high profile rail is available, allowing the track to span an impressive 6 metres! Our curves have a small radius of just 480mm and are available in 15, 30, 45, 60 and 90 degrees as standard, with the option of custom-made curves should this be required.

Our rail is generally supplied in white (for some reason it just seems to blend in best). However, if another colour is sought after please don’t hesitate to get in touch – if you don’t ask, you don’t get.
Our rail is supplied in white although we can accommodate requests - please just ask.

**Inset Track:**
Track can be inset into the ceiling for the ultimate in aesthetics.

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Anyhow, the idea of an X-Y system is to provide an unlimited number of lifting places within a room, enabling a person to be lifted from practically anywhere within the four walls.

This is achieved by installing two parallel tracks on each side of the room, either on the ceiling or on opposite walls. A moving section of track then runs at 90° to the parallel rails, meaning the hoist unit can move along the moving track (direction X) and up and down the length of the room (direction Y). A simple idea, but it certainly works well.

At the heart of an X-Y system are the traverse trolleys – the components that allow the main rail to slide up and down the fixed track. Innova’s traverse trolleys are over-engineered (in a good way) to be sturdy and rigid, yet flow freely up and down the fixed rail for ultra-smooth transfers. In other words, the best of both worlds.
The Airglide360™ X-Y system glides freely, allowing ultra-smooth transfers and full room coverage.
Transit Coupling

Otherwise known as ‘gates’, transit couplings are used in conjunction with X-Y systems, and allow transfers from an X-Y system to a fixed track system, or vice-versa.

They’re very useful bits of kit, but admittedly they can be frustrating when you have to pull cords or press a button and wait for the track to lock into position before proceeding. And then there’s the ‘bump’ that’s often experienced when moving from one track system to the other – not always ideal, especially when the slightest jolt causes pain for the patient.
We’d put up with these things for years, until finally it just became a bit too much and we rolled our sleeves up to put a stop to it once and for all. The result? The patented AirGlide™ transit coupling. After much research we hit on the idea of using a clever combination of magnets along with special sensors and technology. Now, the whole process is so much easier. Simply pull the track into the right position – the magnetic attraction between the moving and fixed rail conveniently locates it accurately for you. The track then locks automatically and stays locked while the hoist unit goes through onto the fixed rail. It unlocks again by itself once you have moved the lifter back onto the X-Y system. It’s difficult to explain in words, but so simple, smooth and easy in real life – watch the video online at www.innova.uk.com and you’ll see what we mean!

Once the masterpiece was complete, a casing was formed for it. The result is something we’re rather pleased with to be honest – compact, tidy and sleek. It’s definitely much nicer looking than those old-style transit couplings.

Transit Coupling:
Allows transfers from an X-Y system to a fixed track system, or vice-versa.
Turntable

We’ll probably spend the rest of our lives wondering why this hasn’t been thought of before.

It’s such a great concept. Move the hoist unit onto the turntable, pause in that position briefly and the turntable moves around. It’s much easier than the old-style turntables and it’s available in both 3 and 4-way versions. The default movement is a 90 degree angle, although this angle can be adjusted on request if this is required for special situations.

Whilst this turntable looks neat and compact just as it is, some people go a step further and take advantage of the way it can be inset into the ceiling. A little extra effort maybe, but at Innova™ we think it’s well worth it – it looks great!
Available in both 3 and 4-way versions
When anyone says the words ‘track switch’, most people immediately think of the old railway line switches – big, clunky, mechanical sections of track which enabled the railway staff to choose which direction the train was going to go in.

To be frank, before the AirGlide360™ track switch came along, overhead hoist track switches were a bit like that as well. If you were lucky enough to have an electrically operated one, carers would still have to push buttons and control the whole process. The manual options were even worse – carers had to pull on the dangling cords to move the track switch across!

Thankfully, the AirGlide360™ track switch makes the transfer run so much more smoothly, in a streamlined procedure. If you want to change the direction, you just need to pause for 2 seconds before moving onto the switch and the track moves automatically. The carer can focus on looking after the client – their top priority – instead of on moving the track.
As with all of the AirGlide360™ track system, the track switch is neat and compact, and blends in with the sleek aesthetics of the other components.
Curtain System

Everyone knows that curtains and overhead hoist track don’t link. They both get in the way of each other, and every which way you try to plan it, it ends up with either the curtain track stopping the hoist from getting from one part of the room to the other, or the hoist track stopping the curtains. This is a particular problem for hospital wards where both lifting assistance and privacy for patients is required.
The AirGlide360™ patented curtain system cleverly resolves this issue, enabling X-Y systems and hoist units to work in harmony with the curtains. Eureka, problem solved!
Distributors

Whilst we love talking to and taking an interest in disabled users and their carers (and do so on a regular basis to develop new and innovative products), we’ve decided to focus our efforts on what we’re best at – designing and manufacturing healthcare equipment which truly makes a difference.

With this in mind, we’ve searched hard for companies who can advise, specify, supply, install, and maintain healthcare equipment to the most exacting of standards. But this hasn’t been the only criterion. Every Innova™ distributor shares our passion for improving the client’s quality of life and acts in an ethical and caring manner.

To find out your nearest distributor, please contact us on 0845 034 1450 or at enquiries@innova.uk.com.
The Government Construction Strategy was published by the Cabinet Office on the 31st May 2011. The report announced the Government’s intention to require collaborative 3D Building Information Modelling (BIM) with all project and asset information, documentation and data being electronic on all public sector projects by 2016.

Innova™ has numerous BIM component files available to download for the Airglide360™ tracking system. To request your personal login password, please visit www.innova.uk.com.

The online resource centre is also packed full of design guides, technical information and other useful information & downloads.