AUTONOMOUS DOOR-TO-DOOR CONCEPT VEHICLE REIMAGINES MASS TRANSIT

Created for both passengers and cargo, the vehicles help passengers stay safe from the coronavirus while experiencing the advantages of public transport

Spotted: Designed to carry two adults and two children, London-based design studio PriestmanGoode’s latest concept vehicle is sustainably powered and autonomous. Working with Dromos Technologies on the project, the electric vehicle comes in two designs — one for passengers and one for cargo. The exterior is the same while the flexibly constructed interior allows for different configurations depending on who and what is travelling.

While currently in the concept stage, PriestmanGoode plans to have a complete demonstration system available by the middle of 2021. The slim, minimalist vehicles provide a 24 hour, seven-day-a-week service and run on Dromos Technologies’ infrastructure, which provides stops directly inside buildings as well as outside.

All the vehicles have built-in accessibility features including step-free access and extra-wide doors. Due to increased concerns over hygiene, PriestmanGoode continues to develop the interior materials and is considering a variety of antimicrobial fabrics and materials. With each piece of the vehicle designed for swift, easy manufacture, the system is affordable for both producers and users and is carbon-neutral when in use.

Other recent innovations Springwise has spotted that focus on increasing accessibility include contactless cash withdrawals and telepresence robots for virtual meetings.

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The improved fuel efficiency and ease of use of autonomous vehicles has long been two of the major draws and now, while the world remains in the grip of a global health pandemic, personal health via distance from strangers is an increased incentive for this type of travel. Research analysts insightSLICE estimate the market growth in global autonomous vehicles to be up to 40 per cent in the next 10 years, particularly as innovation in communication technologies develops. Enhancements in manufacturing and sustainability will be key to future successes, especially as much of the world’s resources and consumption remains focused in the short to medium term on surviving the coronavirus.