



Press Release – Toulouse, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

## INDIGO® weel and Toyota Tsusho partner up to offer Shared Power Chairs in Two Car Parks in Toulouse



Result of a close collaboration between, Indigo weel, Toyota Tsusho Corporation and the Japanese personal mobility manufacturer WHILL, this innovative service, which will be tested in a world preview in Toulouse, will allow people with light reduced mobility to easily access shared electric wheelchairs that are connected, light and designed to appeal to larger audiences. Available in the Victor Hugo and Capitole Indigo car parks, these chairs will be available for hire using the application of INDIGO® weel.

### **The Future of MaaS (Mobility as a Service) is Integration**

In France, reduced mobility impacts the lives of circa 850,000 persons according to the INSEE\*. The ageing of the population will see an acceleration in the coming years, particularly in regions like Europe and Japan. The last year has seen a boom of offerings in shared micromobility to fight urban pollution and congestion but this will be the first time a vehicle designed for light reduced mobility is fully integrated into a micromobility platform. Toyota Tsusho Corporation a global player in the smart mobility arena strongly believes in the combination of micromobility in MaaS as a major force driving the rapid transformation of urban transportation. That is why Toyota Tsusho Corporation decided to partner up with INDIGO® weel in the City of Toulouse to bring about this very innovative project.

\*Sources : INSEE (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques), INPES (Institut national de prévention et d'éducation pour la santé) et Caisse nationale de solidarité pour l'autonomie (CNSA).

### **An agile electric wheelchair**

Ultra-light, electric and handy, the WHILL Model C wheelchair is a technological feat, weighing only 52kgs. All-terrain, the traditional front tires have given way to omni-wheels, which themselves are true clusters of innovation, consisting of an assembly of several similarly shaped elastic bands that give the vehicle a turning radius unique for the market. This advanced technology will allow INDIGO® weel to offer one of the best mobility products on the market.

### **Who are these chairs for?**

These chairs are aimed for people with light reduced mobility who want to try an efficient electric vehicle, elderly people or people suffering from both long and short-term injuries and impairments.

### **Proof of concept**

This experimentation, with 4 chairs in 2 car parks, aim to evaluate under which conditions this service could be available in a larger scale using INDIGO® weel platform.

### **How to rent a Whill electric wheelchair?**

- 1 – Simply download the INDIGO® weel application on the App Store (Apple-IOS) or on the Play store (Android) then create a profile in seconds;
- 2 – Choose your parking and book your chair (2 hours in advance). Customer service will ensure that the vehicle will be available;
- 3 – User can access their chair directly from the carpark getting in touch with the Indigo agent who will explain user how to operate the chair;
- 4 – User can start their rental and use a dedicated elevator to leave the car park;
- 5 – The customer returns their chair to the Indigo agent.

### Practical details: how much does the service cost and when can I rent them?

- **Parking Indigo Capitole:**
  - The service will be available from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
  - Chairs will be offered for 4-hour packages, at a cost of €5. Every additional hour will cost €1,
  - a €100 deposit will be taken at the beginning of the rental
  - the time required for the car to be parked during the rental of the chair will be included in the €5 fee.
- **Parking Indigo Victor Hugo:**
  - The service will be available from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. 7 days a week,
  - Chairs will be offered for 4-hour packages, at a cost of €5. Every additional hour will cost €1,
  - No deposit will be taken,
  - Car parking time will be paid directly to Parking Indigo.

At the beginning, the maximum rental period will be 4 hours. By the end of 2019, we will extend to 48 hours, in order to promote weekend rentals.

### A service provided in close collaboration with the city of Toulouse

In April 2018 INDIGO® weel launched its self-service mobility service in close collaboration with the city of Toulouse. Since then, the app has been downloaded 300,000 times, and nearly 2,000 bicycles and 250 e-scooters have been deployed in the city. A true multimodal platform, Indigo weel continues to upgrade its service and promote accessibility for all.

*"We are proud to be the first micro-mobility operator in the world to offer a service for people with reduced mobility. We decided to partner with Toyota Tsusho Corporation to develop this unique service, as "Mobility for All" has been the DNA with which we have developed our service. We have developed a truly responsible service for bikes and e-scooters, where each ride on our platform end by a picture of the parked vehicle. Each picture is then evaluated to ensure our users have parked our bikes and e-scooters responsibly in the city, to ensure they do not obstruct pathways and roads in the cities where we operate. Mobility for all being at the heart of INDIGO Weel's DNA, we are happy to take this promise one step further by providing this unique and innovative service."* **stated Paul Valencia, CEO of Mobility Digital Solutions mother company of INDIGO weel.**

Yasuhiro Kakahara, Chief Operating Officer for Electronics SBU of Toyota Tsusho Corporation stated *"Toyota Tsusho Corporation is proud to take part in this project with Indigo Weel in the city of Toulouse. Our objective of this micro mobility service is based on "Mobility for All" that is deeply rooted in Toyota Group. It is a great opportunity to extend the service for reduced mobility with accessible technologies. Of course, this just a proof of concept but we expect that we'll learn many lessons here in Toulouse, and this will make it easier to design sustainable and innovative mobility solutions for all, particularly people with mobility challenges. Also this project embodies well our company values: we feel strongly about making a contribution to a ever better society"*.

#### **About INDIGO® weel**

INDIGO® weel is a unique self-service bike and e-scooter rental system available on-street present in 7 cities in France. To use our service, simply open the mobile application INDIGO® weel, geotag our vehicles on the map, then unlock the electronic lock in seconds, by simply scanning the QR code available on the vehicle.

Since its launch in late 2017 Indigo weel has always promoted a sustainable development for individual micro-mobility by being:

- the only operator working alongside local authorities by responding to real mobility challenges in each city;
- the only operator who set up a system of photo checks for 100% of the rides in order to turn users responsible for good parking;
- the only operator setting up local and responsive operational teams employing local mobility professionals and ensuring battery recharging for its vehicles is delivered in secured facilities managed by its own employees ;
- the only sustainable operator with 100% of bicycles and scooters repaired even in case of heavy repairs. To date more than 13,000 bicycles have been repaired and returned to service.

#### **About Toyota Tsusho Corporation**

Toyota Tsusho Corporation was founded in 1948 as the trading company for the Toyota Group. Today, Toyota Tsusho operates in more than 120 countries with approximately 58,000 Group employees, are all striving to contribute to the creation of prosperous societies. Toyota Tsusho continues to expand as a global leader in vehicle exports and automobile production support. The company has seven operating divisions (Metals/ Global Parts & Logistics/ Automotive/ Machinery, Energy & Project/ Chemicals & Electronics/ Food & Consumer Services/ Africa) focused around three business fields. These are the Mobility field, which contributes to future convenient societies, the Resources & Environment field, which ensures sustainable societies, and the Life & Community field, which supports comfortable and healthy lifestyles.

#### **About WHILL, Inc.**

Since its founding in 2012, WHILL's mission has been to transform today's antiquated power wheelchair and scooter experiences into a new kind of empowering devices: intelligent personal electric vehicles (EVs). Named one of TIME's Best Inventions of 2018, WHILL is pushing the boundaries of the personal mobility industry with EVs that focus on state-of-the-art technology and aesthetically pleasing design. Headquartered in Yokohama, Japan with offices in the San Francisco Bay Area, Taiwan and EU, WHILL is focused on enabling everyone to explore the world in comfort and style.

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