Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a technology that can aid disabled individuals transferring from a wheelchair to a raised bed.

In many hotels throughout the United States, management has incorporated European style beds, which are much taller than those found in the normal household, often eclipsing the average bed height by five or more inches. While this may be insignificant to an able bodied person, such a height increase can pose a serious challenge to those who utilize wheelchairs. As a result, something as simple and mundane as transferring from a chair into a bed can become an exercise in frustration.

Our researchers at the University of South Florida addressed this problem by creating a portable lifting chair, or PLC. While something like a scissor type lift can prove extremely effective in lifting both the user and the wheelchair to the height of the bed, they must still utilize a transfer board to get safely from their chair to the bed. Instead, the PLC is an all-in-one device that is not dependent upon any secondary transfer apparatus or methods. Additionally, the PLC is especially useful for individuals with upper body mobility, allowing for more efficient transitions in and out of bed than a sling type device. The PLC is able to smoothly slide, raise, lower, and rotate with minimal input from the user, providing a maximum amount of mobility within a confined space.

ADVANTAGES:
- Efficiently transfer an individual between bed and wheelchair
- Can be easily transported
- Eliminates the need for a transfer board

Chair to Bed Transfer Made Both Simpler and Easier

Schematic of the Portable Lift Chair

Tech ID # 10A045 Patent #: 8,584,273