

Alstom Foundation and Instituto Jô Clemente (IJC) launch project that uses Virtual Reality to promote mobility and social inclusion of people with disabilities

- **Project seeks to overcome challenges of urban mobility and discrimination faced by people with disabilities.**
- **Use of Virtual Reality (VR) simulates public transport scenarios and accessible public spaces.**
- **Training includes visual instructions and communication tools to facilitate interactions**

May 6, 2024 - The Alstom Foundation, in partnership with the Instituto Jô Clemente (IJC), announces the launch of the "Virtual Reality for Inclusion" project, an initiative that will use virtual reality to simulate real world environments to help people with disabilities, including those with Intellectual Disabilities, Rare Diseases and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) develop skills to navigate a world that isn't always designed for them.

The initiative aims to prepare people with disabilities to overcome physical accessibility obstacles and understand basic safety for walking and using public transit in urban areas. The project uses Virtual Reality (VR) to create simulated scenarios, and help participants practice navigating environments that may be challenging to them, in order to increase resilience and self-confidence.

The project is being developed with technical support from the Interdisciplinary Center for Interactive Technologies at the University of São Paulo (LSI-Tec-USP). The room prepared to receive the technology is being installed at the Jô Clemente Institute headquarter, located in the Vila Clementino neighborhood in São Paulo, and the place will be used to complement the classes and activities carried out with students enrolled at the institution.

Participants will have the opportunity to practice and consequently gain more confidence on public transport routes, through a variety of simulated scenarios. This includes from becoming familiar with different train routes to practicing boarding and alighting this vehicle. To complement mobility training, the project offers visual instructions that, combined with visual and auditory communication tools, facilitate participants' interaction and understanding of the content.

"Access to mobility is one of the four axes of work addressed by the Alstom Foundation. Supporting this project is a source of pride, as in addition to meeting this purpose, it is also aligned with one of Alstom's values, which is inclusion", says Anne-Cecile Barbier, CSR Director & Alstom Foundation General Secretary.

According to estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 70 million people with autism in the world, and in Brazil, it is believed that 2 million people have some degree of the disorder. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health indicates that approximately 13 million Brazilians live with rare diseases. Additionally, more than 2.6 million Brazilians - around 1.4% of the country's population - declared

to have a mental or intellectual disability. These conditions have a significant social impact, highlighting the importance of initiatives that aim to include and support these individuals in society.

“The project enhances safety by allowing people with Intellectual Disability and Autism to familiarize themselves with complex urban environments in a controlled, virtual setting. The main goal is to encourage people who we attend through Professional Inclusion service. This is going to prepare 900 people for real world and empower them, so that they feel comfortable and can navigate the city”, says Daniela Mendes, Chief Executive Officer at Instituto Jô Clemente (IJC)

About the Instituto Jô Clemente (IJC):

Instituto Jô Clemente (IJC) is a non-profit Civil Society Organization that has been promoting health and quality of life for people with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Rare Diseases for over 63 years, as well as supporting their social inclusion and defense of rights, by disseminating knowledge through scientific research.

Our work is aligned with several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With governance practices and the valuing of human resources, this alignment is the basis for deepening the ESG principles that are being developed within the organization.

About Alstom Foundation

Established in 2007, the Alstom Foundation supports and funds projects proposed by Alstom employees who team up with local NGO partners and not-for-profit organizations to carry out initiatives aimed at improving living conditions in communities located near the Group's facilities and project sites around the world. The Foundation's projects focus on four axes: Mobility, Environmental Protection, Energy & Water, and Socio-Economic Development.

[The Alstom Foundation](#)

About Alstom

Alstom is committed to contributing to a low-carbon future by developing and promoting innovative and sustainable transport solutions in which people enjoy traveling. From high-speed trains, metros, monorails, tramways to turnkey systems, services, infrastructure, signaling and digital mobility, Alstom offers its diverse customers the broadest portfolio in the industry. With presence in 63 countries and a talent base of more than 80,000 people from 175 nationalities, the company focuses its design, innovation and project management capabilities where mobility solutions are most needed. Alstom, publicly listed in France, generated revenues of €16.5 billion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023. For more information, please visit www.alstom.com.

Contacts

Press

Vinicius RIQUETO
+55 11 9.9865-1563
vinicius.riqueto@alstomgroup.com