

NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND HYATT DENVER DOWNTOWN INTRODUCES TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

(Denver --- June 11, 2003) Grand Hyatt Denver Downtown is one of the first hotels in the nation to provide a new technology for those with mild to severe to profound hearing loss. This, along with a hearing aid, allows the guest to hear clearly and communicate easily on the telephone. Nationally acclaimed disability rights champion Jo Waldron said her company, Able Planet, Inc., today launches its revolutionary new micro-technology. Grand Hyatt Denver is the first hotel in the country to install the device, just 1 mm, about one-eighth the size of the head of a pushpin, in its standard telephones in 150 of its guest rooms. This is initial phase of the installation, which will continue until all 511 accommodations provide the service. Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa and Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center will install the technology in their phones as well as part of Hyatt Hotels Corporation's commitment to providing the service for people with hearing disabilities across the globe.

The patent-pending technology, invented this past year by Waldron with technical guidance and testing by hearing industry veteran Dr. Joan Burleigh, will provide 34 million + Americans and 500 million individuals worldwide with hearing loss, the opportunity to effectively communicate with others via telephone as well as hear speech more clearly using earphones and other communication devices. Those guests with hearing aids simply flip the switch on their hearing aid to the "T" setting and adjust the volume on their hearing aid. The micro-technology is transparent; those using the phone who are not hearing impaired, will not know it is there.

The technology interacts with the telephone coil (t-coil) in common hearing aids to capture audio

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signals from consumer electronic devices. In this application, the micro-technology significantly improves speech understanding with no special equipment other than a hearing aid. In a controlled study, using the traditional HAC technology, the average speech discrimination score was 52.6% compared to 81.6% with Able Planet's micro-technology, a substantial improvement. Furthermore, several participants who had been unable to use traditional HAC-enabled telephones were able to successfully use the phone equipped with Able Planet's micro-technology.

Its inventor, Jo Waldron, who has been deaf since birth, has been a powerful force in the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. She was recognized with America's highest honor, The President's Trophy, by President Reagan in 1987.

"It is an honor to be a partner in introducing this technology to the hospitality industry", said Ed Bucholtz, general manager of the Grand Hyatt Denver. "The people who invented this device did a remarkable job in providing an incredible service, not only for people with hearing disabilities, but for everyone. Life just became easier for millions of people."

Hyatt Hotels Corporation is the first corporation with a commitment to use Able Planet's new micro-technology. Able Planet is currently working with market sectors such as wireline and wireless telecommunications, public accommodation telecommunications, computer/network services, public/environmental communications, hearing aid/assisting devices, Federal, State and local municipalities and retail/equal opportunity employers. The technology is available for sale to corporations and directly to consumers. Products may be purchased at www.ableplanet.com.

Reservations for the Grand Hyatt Denver may be made by calling the hotel directly at (303) 295-1234, toll free at 1-800-55-HYATT or by contacting a travel planner. For the lowest available rates, visit www.denverregency.hyatt.com.

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