

Driving Force

Stacy Zoern, who has spinal-muscular atrophy, was resigned to relying on others to get anywhere; it was too physically demanding for her to maneuver from her wheelchair into a car and drive. Then she discovered an electric car that allowed her to roll right into its back. "The wheelchair locks in, you close the hatch, and go," she says. The hitch: The Hungarian company that owned the Kenguru (Hungarian for *kangaroo*) was about to go under. With zero business experience, Zoern, 35, set out to save her potential savior. She eventually raised \$4.5 million, enough to start production. There's already a triple-digit waiting list, but Zoern isn't on it: The first model is for users who can operate a steering wheel; because of her upper-body limitations, Zoern requires a joystick. "We'll have a car for me in less than 3 years," she says. "That will be a liberating day." — *Holly Peozner*

