'Intelligent' White Stick for the Blind Uses Navigation and Sensor Technology

On Tuesday 15 October, International White Cane Safety Day, the Dutch company I-Cane presented an “intelligent” white stick for the blind. The I-Cane Mobilo, as the stick is known, is enhanced with state-of-the-art navigation and sensor technology. The company claims that this is the first true innovation since the introduction of the traditional white stick 90 years ago.

Using sensors and navigation, the new I-Cane white stick makes it easier for blind or visually impaired people to find their bearings within their surroundings. The sensors enable obstacles to be detected and hence avoided, while the navigation technology plans suitable routes and guides people along them. The white stick’s functionality is based on a connection with the person’s smartphone.

The ‘white stick 2.0’ was designed together with the Delft University of Technology. The final product was the result of close collaboration between those directly involved in the design project and several interest groups.