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# SpeechEasy Announces Acquisition of FluencyCoach

Janus Development Group, the providers of SpeechEasy, the nation's leading provider of portable speech fluency devices, has today announced the acquisition of FluencyCoach, a desktop software which allows those who stutter to experience choral speech.

Greenville, NC (<u>PRWEB</u>) November 10, 2009 -- Janus Development Group (Janus), the providers of SpeechEasy, the nation's leading provider of portable speech fluency devices, has today announced the acquisition of FluencyCoach, a desktop software which allows those who stutter to experience choral speech.

Research has shown that the use of choral speech can help to induce fluency in those who stutter. Similar to SpeechEasy, FluencyCoach utilizes Altered Auditory Feedback (AAF), by combining both Delayed Auditory Feedback and Frequency Altered Feedback, to mimic the choral speech effect. FluencyCoach is a downloadable software application which is compatible with most home computer operating systems and allows users to manipulate and utilize the fluency-enhancing effects of choral speech at their discretion.

FluencyCoach by SpeechEasy is available, for free, to anyone who wants to use it. By offering this free software, SpeechEasy is able to introduce the fluency-enhancing effects of AAF to anyone who wants to try it. In addition, the promotion and use of FluencyCoach will help SpeechEasy increase awareness regarding the availability of viable treatment options for those who stutter. SpeechEasy will also be providing technical and clinical support from a certified Speech-Language Pathologist, who is experienced in the use of AAF for the treatment of stuttering.

FluencyCoach represents the first company and product acquisition made by Janus Development Group. According to Alan Newton, President of Janus Development Group, "The addition of FluencyCoach to our product mix clearly strengthens our abilities to further support the stuttering community. We are excited to add a quality product such as FluencyCoach, and we look forward to continuing to add more products such as this which reflect the quality, technology and usefulness which our SpeechEasy brand has come to represent. Janus is committed to delivering practical solutions which can aid in the treatment of stuttering."

FluencyCoach by SpeechEasy can be downloaded free of charge at <u>www.fluencycoach.com/download.php</u>.

# About Janus Development Group, Inc.

Based in Greenville, NC, Janus Development Group, Inc. was established in December, 2000 and is committed to developing and marketing assistive living devices for persons with disabilities. In 2001, Janus Development Group began marketing and distributing SpeechEasy – a fluency-enhancing device for those who stutter. More information about Janus Development Group, Inc. is available by visiting <u>www.janusdevelopment.com</u>.

#### About SpeechEasy

SpeechEasy is a portable, fluency-enhancing device that helps a high percentage of people who stutter speak more fluently with less effort. In the US alone, over 7,000 people who stutter have been fitted with a SpeechEasy



device since it was first made available to the public in June 2001. Similar to a hearing aid, SpeechEasy is worn in or around the ear. But rather than amplify sound, it alters the way the user hears his or her own voice – changing the pitch and delaying it slightly to trick the brain into hearing a second voice speaking in unison. Such "choral" speech can alleviate stuttering in varying degrees, depending on the individual. SpeechEasy was developed by a team of communication disorder researchers at East Carolina University, and is marketed exclusively by Janus Development Group. SpeechEasy devices are available via a network of state licensed, ASHA (American Speech Language Hearing Association)-certified speech language pathologists. More information about SpeechEasy is available at <u>www.speecheasy.com</u>.

#### About FluencyCoach

FluencyCoach is a free software application which uses Altered Auditory Feedback technology to simulate the effects of "Choral Speech" (speaking simultaneously with another person). It has been known for years that choral speech can promote fluency in a person who stutters. Created and made available to the public in 2006, FluencyCoach has been used by thousands of people who stutter. More information about FluencyCoach is available at <u>www.fluencycoach.com</u>.

For more information regarding Janus Development Group, SpeechEasy, or FluencyCoach, please contact Alan Newton, President, at 1-866-551-9042 or alan(at)speecheasy(dot)com

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