

You said:

Paradromics CEO [says](#): "Like every time that we give a person with a disability a superpower that becomes very interesting to people without disabilities."

ChatGPT said:

Below is a clear, business-style analysis of that claim in the context of neurotech, implants, and the broader assistive-vision ecosystem you track.

Interpretation and Strategic Assessment of the Claim

Matt Angle's statement — "*Like every time that we give a person with a disability a superpower, that becomes very interesting to people without disabilities.*" — is a polished version of a familiar venture-capital narrative: disability-focused assistive technologies can act as a wedge market for eventual mainstream augmentation.

This framing has three layers worth unpacking.

1. Marketing Logic

The statement positions invasive BCIs not as remedial devices but as *enhancement platforms*. It suggests:

- A first market: individuals with severe motor or sensory impairments.
- A larger aspirational follow-on market: healthy users seeking augmentation.

This rhetoric is deliberately reminiscent of prosthetic limbs, cochlear implants, or exoskeletons being repurposed for "superhuman" potential. For investors, this expands TAM and helps justify high R&D costs.

However, the analogy is weak in key respects:

- Cochlear implants and limb prostheses do not attract widespread adoption by healthy users.
- Invasive neurosurgery has a dramatically different risk profile.
- Regulatory frameworks treat restorative vs. enhancement indications very differently.

The phrase "superpower" is therefore more symbolic than operational.

2. Technical Reality Check

For non-disabled mainstream adoption, any implantable neurotech must meet stringent requirements that current platforms cannot:

- **Surgical safety** approaching LASIK levels (far from reality).
- **High reliability**, low Butcher number, and low explant-revision rates.
- **Minimal infection risk** associated with percutaneous or wireless power pathways.

- **Consistent performance** without representational drift or retraining burden.
- **Convincing functional benefit** beyond what noninvasive devices already offer.

Visual prostheses are even further from meeting these thresholds. Present-day electrode-based vision BCIs do not deliver a perceptual experience remotely comparable to natural or even prosthetic-quality vision. They are far from providing “superpowers” to anyone, disabled or not.

3. Strategic Reality Check in the Vision Domain

The “superpower narrative” collapses when applied to visual BCIs:

- The quality of phosphene-based imagery (low pixel count, high latency, spatial distortion) is not competitive with even the most basic noninvasive vision solutions such as The vOICe.
- A sighted person would *never* sacrifice functional visual cortex, accept neurosurgical risk, or tolerate implant failure modes for a result that is orders of magnitude below commodity AR/AI-based sensory augmentation.
- The long-term economics favor noninvasive, software-defined, web-standards-based systems rather than neurosurgically installed hardware with limited lifetime and high maintenance burden.

The claim works rhetorically; it does not survive comparison with the current trajectory of AI-AR smartglasses and VASS systems.

4. Underlying Investor Narrative

The real purpose of such statements is to:

- Reposition invasive BCIs as a future consumer platform rather than a narrow medical niche.
- Signal ambition and “category creation” potential.
- Differentiate Paradromics from competitors by implying a pathway from disability restoration to mainstream augmentation.

This narrative is attractive to generalist investors but increasingly disconnected from:

- Regulatory headwinds,
 - Neurosurgical scalability,
 - Long-term maintenance liabilities,
 - And the accelerating alternative path of software-first sensory augmentation.
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5. Implications for the Assistive-Vision Landscape

The quote indirectly illustrates the strategic tension in the entire field:

- **Implant companies** need the “superpower” story to justify long-term R&D and valuations.
- **Noninvasive systems** deliver scalable, safe, globally deployable capability without invoking speculative enhancement narratives.

In practice, the greatest near-term “superpowers” for blind or sighted users are coming from:

- AI-augmented semantic perception,
- High-FOV cameras,
- Real-time spatial sonification (VASS),
- And lightweight, widely deployable AR ecosystems.

This is the *opposite* direction of invasive implants.

Source: <https://chatgpt.com/share/694550a4-8ad0-8004-9fc2-82cf193cb290>