

Robot Vendors Get More Funding

Two Pittsburgh-based vendors of robotic technologies have received a second grant to continue development of a robot to assist nurses with physically challenging or repetitive tasks.

Aethon Inc. sells TUG, a robot that several hospitals now use to track and deliver meals, medications, equipment and various supplies. The company is working to combine TUG's technology with dexterous manipulation robotic technology--a set of arms--from RE2 Inc.

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Among other uses, this could give caregivers a second set of arms to move patients from gurneys to hospital beds.

The companies in April 2008 announced first-phase grant funding from the U.S. Army's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center. Now, the project has received a second-phase grant from the center. Terms of the grants were not disclosed.

More information is available at www.aethon.com and www.resquared.com.