

## Seven Technologies That Could Change Health Care

Posted on December 9th, 2008 by lwaller

### **Aethon - Pittsburgh**

Nurses don't need to schlep bandages and food—robots can do it better and cheaper, figures Aethon, developer of mobile robots that use radio frequency identification technology to track and fetch medical supplies. Founded in 2002, the company has raised about \$22 million from the likes of Draper Triangle Ventures and Pacific Venture Group. Aethon's robots, which it leases for between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a month, now zip throughout the hallways and supply closets of 100 hospitals in the U.S. Among the robots: "Tug," a self-navigating, battery-powered bot the size of a small suitcase that attaches directly to hospital carts and can carry up to 800 pounds. Tug can pick up, sort and deliver medical supplies and meals and run blood samples to labs; he can even ride elevators and open doors.

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