

## TUG Delivers Cheer...and More...to Young Patients

Aethon Inc. recently announced general availability of its train-themed “JR” autonomous mobile robot to children’s hospitals across the country and that Aethon will make a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for each JR TUG that is deployed. The JR TUG is currently delivering equipment to children at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and medication to children in North Carolina at Carolinas Healthcare Systems in addition to the original implementation at UCSF.



Modeled after the title character in the children’s book “The Little Engine that Could,” JR was originally developed to help grant a wish for Jericho Rajninger, a seven-year old leukemia patient from Larkspur, California, and was donated to UCSF Children’s Hospital through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

As part of his chemotherapy treatment Jericho had to take more than 4,000 pills. He realized that the prospect of all that medicine could be frightening for other children. Jericho believed that having the medications delivered by a robot modeled after a train might make the prospect of all those pills more pleasant.

“We were honored to make Jericho’s wish to help other sick children a reality,” said Aldo Zini, CEO of Aethon.

“We are extremely pleased that the JR robots are being deployed in other children’s hospitals and hope that they will in some sense help sick children and their parents nationwide cope with a difficult experience.”

JR is based on Aethon’s TUG, a mobile autonomous robot that transports medical equipment and supplies. JR has drawers in its “caboose” from which medications can be drawn by nurses. The robot also features a conductor who speaks to children with the voice of legendary voice over actor Don LaFontaine. “Look out, here I come,” “Thanks, from the bottom of my caboose,” “Pardon my caboose, I’m turning around,” “Engines revved and ready to go,” and “Choo choo, gotta run” are among the phrases JR speaks.

“Our JR TUG makes the delivery of equipment and supplies more efficient while offering some cheer to our young patients,” said Tom Lausten, director of Pharmacy Services at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. “In addition, staff is able to focus on patient care without having to worry about the logistics of delivery.”

**Company:** Aethon

**Web Site:** [www.aethon.com](http://www.aethon.com)



**Location:** Pittsburgh, PA 15205

**Description:** Aethon is the leader in the business of low-cost, pilot-less hauling of material indoors. Aethon has developed a cost-saving hospital automation product called the TUG®, which automates and tracks the indoor transport of goods to reduce labor costs and improve supply chain efficiency. [Read more.](#)