



Press Release

Aethon, Inc. Technology Helps to Advance Development of Robotic Nursing Assistant

Aethon partnership with RE2 receives additional funding to move forward to phase II

November 12, 2008 – PITTSBURGH, PA – Aethon Inc., the leading developer of mobile robotics for hospital supply chain logistics, today announced the ongoing success of its partnership with RE2, Inc. to develop a prototype Robotic Nursing Assistant (RNA). Aethon combined its mobile robotic platform and sophisticated navigation technology with RE2's intelligent dexterous manipulation expertise to create the RNA concept that will help caregivers perform at a higher level of productivity while providing a safer work environment.

The RNA aims to provide caregivers with assistance when performing labor-intensive patient care. Its dual dexterous manipulators give the caregiver a second set of arms that can carry out physically challenging tasks, such as moving patients from gurneys to hospital beds, without risking injuries to the caregiver. By adding Aethon's existing TUG[®] technology, the RNA will be able to independently navigate throughout hospitals to aid caregivers with patient care.

"The partnership between Aethon and RE2 made perfect sense because both companies can leverage their unique robotics expertise to create the innovative RNA," said Barry Skirble, CIO, Aethon. "The proven TUG platform is extremely capable for automating the transport of a wide range of mobile medical equipment. We look forward to working with other partners to showcase innovative ideas in the future."

Because of the success of the RNA development using Aethon's TUG technology, RE2 was recently awarded additional funding through a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract grant (contract number W81XWH-08-C-0023) by the U.S. Army Medical Research & Materiel Command's (USAMRMC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) to continue developing a prototype RNA.

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About Aethon: Based in Pittsburgh, PA, Aethon is a leader in healthcare Supply Chain Logistics and Workflow Solutions, providing a broad range of departmental and hospital-wide applications that automate the movement of goods (such as medications, supplies, meals, equipment, etc.), improve asset utilization, and ensure regulatory compliance. Aethon delivers its solutions through a proprietary autonomous mobile robot, the TUG, which reduces cost, enhances clinical productivity, improves workflow, and allows clinicians to focus more time on patient care. TUGs have demonstrated ROIs in the 20 to 50 percent range, while improving nurse and patient satisfaction. More than 100 hospitals nationwide have deployed Aethon's technology. For more information, visit www.aethon.com.