
Press Release

Aethon Redefines Hospital Asset Tracking

HOMER brings powerful technology within reach of virtually every hospital

August 14, 2006 — PITTSBURGH, PA — Aethon, Inc., a leader in practical robotics that are transforming healthcare, has introduced HOMER™, the first and only asset management solution designed to locate and recover hospital equipment. HOMER, the fastest growing Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-based asset tracking system, is also the only technology that allows hospitals to avoid major infrastructure investments.

In the fast-paced hospital environment, equipment is constantly moving and often hard to find. By tracking the location of assets, hospitals can improve staff efficiency and satisfaction, increase asset utilization, decrease equipment rentals, and improve regulatory compliance.

“HOMER increases confidence that equipment will be in the right place at the right time,” said Aldo Zini, Chief Executive Officer, Aethon. “It is a complete solution, which improves workflow dynamics in hospitals, because it’s the only asset tracking system capable of automated transportation.

HOMER’s unique asset tracking capabilities are an outgrowth of technology made possible by TUG®, the most successful robotic hospital delivery system. Leveraging the TUG platform and employing a single mobile antenna eliminates the typical infrastructure hurdles of competitors’ systems. This translates into more efficient organization and location of pumps, wheelchairs, monitors, respirators, beds, and virtually any other assets hospitals are interested in tracking.

“Aethon has redefined how to deploy an asset tracking solution, making it affordable and easy to install,” said John Lewis, President and CEO, Armstrong County Memorial Hospital (a 173-bed medical facility in Kittanning, PA). “We see good ideas every day that have the potential to improve the quality of care for our patients. Unfortunately, the vast majority of them are too cost prohibitive from both an acquisition and installation perspective for the average community hospital. HOMER is a practical innovation that puts the benefits within the reach of hospitals like ours.

A cost-effective and nimble solution, HOMER can seamlessly merge with existing hospital systems and requires minimal installation. HOMER works with active RFID tags (unique identifiers). Because it can use any third-party tag, HOMER is tag independent. Furthermore, HOMER can be integrated into existing asset management software. Aethon provides installation, tag selection and setup, software integration, training, and support.

“Aethon offers hospitals a complete, simple, and reliable system,” said Mark Todd, Director, Materials Management, Providence Hospital (a 382-bed medical facility in Washington, DC). “Aethon’s solution is much less expensive and more complete for what I had in mind for asset tracking. When I looked at other asset tracking systems, they were either very expensive or were missing important parts. Aethon integrates automated delivery as part of its asset tracking solution, ensuring that we not only know where our assets are, but that they are where they should be.”

HOMER is the fastest growing RFID-based asset tracking solution with six contracts signed in the last quarter: Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore, MD), Providence Hospital (Washington, DC), Allegheny General Hospital (Pittsburgh, PA), Capital Regional (HCA) (Tallahassee, FL), Armstrong County Memorial Hospital (Kittanning, PA), and Geisinger Health Systems (Danville, PA).

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Note to Editors: Aethon is demonstrating HOMER at booth #523 during the conference.

About Aethon: Based in Pittsburgh, PA, Aethon is a leader in providing practical, dependable, and affordable robotics for hospitals. Aethon's first commercialized product, TUG, is an automated courier system for the delivery and tracking of hospital goods and supplies. TUG saves hospitals thousands of dollars, is simple to install, and can be applied across a variety of applications. For more information, visit <http://www.aethon.com>.