The Healthware Project: Improving connectivity with remote areas for equitable access to health services

The Healthware project aims at validating and promoting the use of a light and cost-effective technology, the DVB-RCS, in geographic areas encountering difficulties with terrestrial communication networks, without the necessary high transmission rates for running interactive applications based on video-conferencing, like collaborative staff meeting, tele-expertise, tele-consultation and medical training, as well as exchange of high volumes of data.

Healthware is an Integrated Project, co-financed by the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, which started on 1st May 2005 for a three-year duration. Gathered around the project’s coordinator, Alcatel Alenia Space, 19 partners from the world of telecommunications and engineering, and also University Hospitals, research and medical institutions have come together to implement different pilot networks of tele-expertise, tele-consultation, home services for patients and medical training, spread throughout Europe, in the Czech Republic, Poland, Cyprus, Crete and Greece, United Kingdom and France. This pilot phase targets demonstrating the added-value of satellite communications for a better delivery of healthcare, and so in the frame of three medical specialties: chronic respiratory diseases, oncology and cardiology.

The use of DVB-RCS and the availability of performing and adapted e-health applications offer remote areas with increased connectivity and interactivity, so as to reduce the digital divide and to improve the comfort of the patients, while ensuring costs containment.

Benefits of this solution’s implementation are numerous, providing medical staff with a large broadband access to expertise and hospitals, allowing a better management and coordination of care in case of emergency or crisis, making it possible for patients to be monitored and cured while staying at home, offering access to medical training, medical information and knowledge without any geographical barrier, and also, allowing to make substantial savings in healthcare expenses thanks to a better coordination of care and services.

The study for an operational model fitting the development of each application in Europe is also a priority of the project. Consequently, the medical users and decision-makers are full members of the consortium and play a crucial role not only in the validation of the proposed solutions but also for the definition of the strategy and of the operational model for the provisioning of the Healthware services.

More information on the web: http://healthware.alcasat.net
First Healthware Workshop – 6th April 2006 - Luxembourg

The first workshop organized by the Healthware Consortium is dedicated to the presentation and the promotion of the expected benefits offered by the availability of telemedicine applications, especially for remote areas, and of the deployment’s conditions on the field of such a light and cost effective DVB-RCS technology, and, finally, of the project’s achievements up to its first year of activities, by giving the word to the medical user partners of the project.

This workshop is also the occasion to present the User and Citizen Open Group, created in the framework of Healthware to gather not only the medical users involved in the pilots of the project but also the numerous experts, decision-makers, representatives of patients and citizen associations, actors or beneficiaries of telemedicine solutions in Europe.

The User and Citizen Open Group represents an open space to exchange and discuss the main issues and strategies relative to the development of telemedicine solutions in Europe. This UCOG is contributing in this way to a more accurate definition of the user needs, and to an increased knowledge of the implementation’s technical, organizational, financial and legal aspects on the European territory, so as to define at best the opportunities of development and the organizational model required for a long-lasting implementation and penetration of these satellite-based telemedicine systems.

The Healthware workshop will be held on 6th April 2006 in Luxemburg, in the frame of the Med-e-Tel International trade and conference on Health, telemedicine and health ICT.

International trade and conference on Health, telemedicine and health ICT

Med-e-Tel is a major event in the domain of e-health, being dedicated to telemedicine applications and ICT in health, together with the convergence of these technologies with medical applications, allowing for a better quality of healthcare, decreasing expenses and improving the efficiency of health services and a higher accessibility of health services.

Med-e-Tel represents an excellent opportunity for developing networks between the different involved international actors and offers a professional environment designed to facilitate exchanges and partnerships on all projects, initiatives, applications, experiences, services and technologies dedicated to e-health and to telemedicine in the world.

Med-e-Tel is dedicated to the presentation and study of the opportunities offered by the products and actors of e-health, thanks to a large panel of presentations, discussions and conferences on satellite, to discuss the main issues relative to telemedicine, as bio-informatics, wireless and broadband networks, business models, developing countries and e-health, distant education and training, the integration of e-health in the daily medical practice, the electronic patient record, applications for the monitoring of patients at home, satellite and e-health, standardization and interconnectivity, telemedicine applications and projects, etc....
The Med-e-Tel International trade and conference on Health, telemedicine and health ICT will take place at the Luxexpo Convention Center, Luxembourg, on the 5th, 6th and 7th April 2006. For more information on the program and exhibitors on the web: www.medetel.lu.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME
Luxembourg, 6 April 2006

08:30 - 09:30: Registration and welcome coffee

Morning Session:

Chairperson: Pascal LOCHELONGUE - Alcatel Alenia Space

Presentation of the expected outcome of the workshop

Welcome addresses
09:35 – 09:45
Introduction of Healthware context and sitcom policy of DG Enterprise
Christine BERNOT - DG Enterprise (TBC)

09.45 – 09.55
Presentation of the Healthware Project
Pascal LOCHELONGUE - Healthware Coordinator

Session A: Telemedicine in Europe: statement and examples

09:55 – 10:15
Presentation of ESA Telemedicine study
Francesco FELICIANI - Head of Applications Section, ESA/ESTEC

10.15 – 10.35
UNESCO’s strategy and priorities in medical and education training
René CLUZEL – DG Information, UNESCO

10.35 – 10.55
Patients Point of View (Homecare/telemedicine solution of retirement home)
Angelica FRITHIOF - Stockholm Rheumatism Association, Sweden

10.55 – 11.15
Insight and experience gained from clinical telemedicine applications
Adjoint Prof. Dr. Alexander HORSCHEL – University of Tromsø

11:15 – 11:35 Coffee Break

Session B: Specificities of Healthware pilot sites

11.35 – 11.55
HEALTHWARE: A telemedicine statistics focus and an overview of the users needs
Dr. Bernard COMET - Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France
11.55 – 12.15  
**Fast track option for medical training in BLS/ALS using DVB-RCS in the Health Emergency Coordination Centre of Crete: a user-centered approach**  
Dr Dimitris VOURVAHAKIS – Prehospital Health Emergency Coordination Center – Crete

12.15 – 12.35  
**Cardiology / Oncology Network**  
Prof. Dr. N. SHASTRY - Bristol Royal Infirmary, UK

12.35 – 12.55  
**Remote Medical [Primary] Care and Isolated Persons**  
Prof. Louis LARENG - CHU Toulouse / IET, France

13.00 – 14.00  
**Lunch**

**Afternoon session Round Table:**

**Session C: Healthware User and Citizen Open Group**

Chairperson: Dr. Stephan SCHUG - EHTEL

14.00 – 14.15  
*Synthesis of the morning sessions with special emphasis on Healthware’s specificities/particularities, introduction of the afternoon sessions*  
Dr. Stephan SCHUG – EHTEL

14.15 – 14.35  
*Goal & Missions*  
Hélène MIGNOT - C2Team: Launch of the User and Citizen Open Group (UCOG)

**Session D: Round table / Open discussion**

14.35 – 15.45  
*What is the expected added value of telemedicine applications (economical impact, medical practise, citizens and patients concerns), how to converge to an operational model? Definition and development of generic solution? (TBD)*  
Dr. Stephan SCHUG - EHTEL  
Pascal LOCHELONGUE - Alcatel Alenia Space (Healthware coordinator)

DGInfso, European Community, e-Health and European Social Cohesion Policy (TBC)

*Evidence on economic impact of ehealth and telemedicine applications*  
Alexander DOBREV – Empirica, Germany (TBC)

Francesco FELICIANI - ESA/ESTEC  
Prof. SHASTRY - Bristol Royal Infirmary

15.45 - 16.00  
*Recommendations, Conclusion and Overview*  
Pascal LOCHELONGUE  
Dr. Stephan SCHUG
GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE AND VENUE
The workshop will be held on April 6, 2006 during Med-e-Tel. Med-e-Tel takes place at the Luxexpo Exhibition and Conference Center:

LUXEXPO
10, Circuit de la Foire Internationale
Boîte 1
L-1347 Luxembourg Kirchberg
LUXEMBOURG

TRANSPORT
Luxexpo is easily accessible:

By car:
Luxexpo is located right off the motorway, on the Kirchberg Plateau. The town center is just a short drive away (5 minutes). From the motorway follow signs to Kirchberg Plateau.

By air:
Luxembourg Airport is served by regular flights from a wide number of destinations in Europe and beyond (see: www.luxair.lu). The airport is located only minutes away from Luxexpo.

By train:
The railway station is located in the town center and connected to Luxexpo by regular bus service or taxis.
ACCOMMODATION
Special rates have been arranged via the Luxembourg Convention Bureau in the following hotels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Single Room</th>
<th>Double Room</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sofitel</td>
<td>200,00 €</td>
<td>220,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilton</td>
<td>168,00 €</td>
<td>178,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novotel</td>
<td>135,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibis</td>
<td>91,00 €</td>
<td>96,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campanile</td>
<td>84,00 €</td>
<td>94,00 €</td>
</tr>
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Rates are expressed in € (Euro) by room and by night. Breakfast and service/taxes are included in the above rates.

To make a reservation at the above conditions for your stay in Luxembourg during Med-e-Tel, please print out the accommodation form (www.medetel.lu) and return it by fax to the Luxembourg Convention Bureau (fax: +352 46 70 73) who will confirm your reservation. For any questions about hotel reservations, please contact convention.bureau@lcto.lu

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fee includes:
- access to the conference sessions and exhibition
- lunch buffet and coffee breaks
- conference bag and conference materials

Registration form:
Participants are requested to complete the enclosed registration form which should be returned as soon as possible by fax (+352 4399 315) or by mail to:
Med-e-Tel c/o Luxexpo
L-2088 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG

More information on the following website: www.medetel.lu

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