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Press Release

Petelin connects to RP-7s at Shawnee Mission Medical Center from the Kansas prairie

Using a Novatel Wireless Merlin™ S720 PC broadband card over Sprint's network, Dr. Petelin successfully conducted the 1st remote presence interactions at SMMC from a farm 30 miles away.

Paola, Kansas, February 24, 2007: Dr. Joe Petelin performed what is believed to be the first remote presence video/audio/motion session from a laptop in his pickup truck at a farm 30 miles from Shawnee Mission Medical Center on the Kansas plains on Saturday February 24, 2007.

- Equipment: InTouchHealth Remote Presence Laptop Control Station, RP-7 Robot, Novatel Wireless Merlin™ S720 PC broadband card, Sprint Wireless Broadband Data Network.
- Bandwidth: 940-1160 kbps download, 570-643 kbps upload.

How the session materialized:

Shawnee Mission Medical Center (SMMC) purchased the RP system from IntouchHealth (ITT) with 5 robots ~3 years ago. A wireless system was already in place at the hospital. Initial communications depended on a desktop control station at that time. Subsequently, ITT developed a laptop version of the control station that allowed more mobility and connectivity for physician users. This still required landline or wireless network connections at the control station.

However, with the development of cellular broadband wireless access, a new era has begun. Now the remote user is not tied to a building that happens to have internet access. He can be anywhere that an adequate cellular signal is available—even on the Kansas plains.

Imagine what can happen next: cellular cards or USB versions of the same installed on the RP-7s themselves (or RP-x) would free them from the “wireless corrals” they’re currently bound to. Then worldwide shopping, touring, consulting, etc, from anywhere to anywhere is possible.

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