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WORLD'S MOST REMOTE ISLAND GETS ADVANCED MEDICAL CARE FROM MEDWEB, IBM, NORTHSTAR AND CENTER FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE OF WESTERN PA

Real-time diagnosis and treatment solution for residents of Tristan da Cunha creates new telemedicine model for isolated populations everywhere

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – May 14, 2007: The world's most remote inhabited island can now access advanced telemedicine, thanks to pro-bono services and support from a high-technology team led by IBM and Beacon Equity Partners, using Medweb systems and support. Tristan da Cunha is located more than 1,665 miles west of Cape Town, South Africa, and is accessible only by a boat trip lasting a week or more. Some 270 British Citizens call the island home.

Today, Medweb joined IBM, Beacon Equity Partners, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and the Government of Tristan da Cunha in announcing the successful implementation of "Project Tristan." This tested and proven remote medical solution combines medical equipment, satellite communications and remotely supported electronic health-record (EHR) technology, allowing medical experts from anywhere in the world to assist island clinicians in their daily practices with medical diagnoses and emergency support.

Until recently, the island's only physician, Dr. Carel Van der Merwe, has had to rely upon minimal technology and limited medical support. Working from a hospital without so much as its own telephone to provide care for patients, he has often performed life-saving diagnoses and procedures without proper equipment or specialized expertise. Lacking a communications system that could accept email attachments, help in interpreting X-Rays or EKGs, he has depended on digital images scanned, printed and faxed to specialists thousands of miles away, delaying diagnoses by days. With no airstrip on the island, emergency evacuation or outside medical intervention has been and remains today virtually impossible.

Project Tristan, which is based on open standards and runs on the Linux Operating System, is expected to greatly enhance the island's level of medical care and standard of living. The island's physician is now able to electronically capture and share medical data and information, including X-Rays and EKGs, as well as pulmonary function evaluations and video camera examinations with physician consultants using Medweb's Tele-Clinic. Satellite communications will enable clinicians to provide real-time diagnostic advice and suggested treatments to the attending physician.

"The ability to share medical data quickly and easily will be a life saver for our residents," said Dr. Van der Merwe. "By joining forces, IBM, Beacon Equity Partners, Medweb and UPMC have not only created the capability to bring critical, patient-centric care to our remote island, but also to other distant locations around the world – on land or sea – that require constant connection to expert medical resources."



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Contributions from each team member were as follows:

- [Medweb](#): Medweb servers and software and additional medical input devices including a computed radiography system for digital X-Ray; integration of ECG, digital cameras, spirometry and video conferencing capabilities; configuration and testing, remote installation, training and sustained support services on an ongoing basis, including primary technical and help desk services.
- [IBM](#): Solution co-development, integration and project management for the telemedicine system provided to Tristan da Cunha. Products and services included staffing, on-site installation of the system, financial resources, IBM xSeries servers provided to [Medweb](#) and high-resolution monitors.
- [Beacon Equity Partners](#): Co-development of the concept and funding for the project.
- [University of Pittsburgh Medical Center](#): With its widely recognized experience in telemedicine in the U.S. and abroad, UPMC volunteered to help plan and implement Project Tristan. Additionally, UPMC offered clinical professional service to the island, including medical consultations on request; secure and reliable access to robust and comprehensive multimedia medical data on Tristan patients from the [Medweb](#) Telemedicine solution; and ongoing remote training to support Project Tristan as needed.
- [SOAPware[®]](#): Project Tristan features cutting-edge, remotely supported Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology courtesy of SOAPware, Inc. This solution has more installed sites and in use in more nations than any other.

Project Tristan was conceived by Edward Mullen, Chairman of Beacon Equity Partners, and Paul Grundy, MD, MPH, and IBM's Director of Healthcare Technology and Strategic Initiatives, as a way to honor the memory of a close friend, Thomas Wiese. In dedicating Project Tristan to the memory of Weiss, who was lost to cancer in 2006 after a lifetime of helping others, the parties share a vision of the project's potential impact around the world. "Thomas had enormous energy and enthusiasm for reaching out to others," said Ed Mullen. "It is in memory of his spirit, resolve and guiding principles that our team has worked to deploy Tristan on Tristan da Cunha. Our unanimous goal is to expand this advanced telemedical solution to improve healthcare in remote locations around the world."

Dr. Peter Killcommons, founder and CEO of Medweb, stated "This project reinforces our commitment to provide healthcare solutions to underserved communities around the world. We are proud to be able to contribute to this important project in memory of Thomas Wiese. We look forward to continuing to support accessibility of care for the residents of Tristan da Cunha."

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