



Vereniging Ouders  
van Dove Kinderen  
te Haren



## **CASE STUDY: AETHRA® VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS TO AID THE HEARING IMPAIRED**

**Customer interviewed: Vereniging Ouders van Dove Kinderen te Haren  
Video communication Systems: Maia® NX and Vega® Pro**

Video communication is a tool capable of improving the way that we live and work. Real time face-to-face meetings, remote data collaboration, and high quality audio and video, all result in more effective and efficient communication for everyone.

Until recently the most effective methods of communication for deaf and hard of hearing people were considered to be the fax and text telephone, but now awareness of the need for video communication solutions is growing. In The Netherlands, medical insurance companies are beginning to recognize them as aids to be compensated for, thanks to the work of the “Projectgroep Beeldtelefonie van de Vereniging Ouders van Dove Kinderen te Haren” - the Project Group on Videotelephony of the Association of Deaf Children’s Parents in Haren. As a result of their work, the Dutch College of Medical Insurance CVZ (College voor Zorgverzekeringen) recently advised the Minister of Health to recognize the videophone as an official communication aid. The Minister has taken into consideration this recommendation and as from 1 January 2003 video communication equipment is compensated for up to a maximum of €2250.

The aim of the “Association of Deaf Children’s Parents in Haren” is to increase awareness among the deaf and their families of the possibilities offered by the use of video communication as well as the funding available for it. People in the same situation in other countries with equivalent legislation to that of The Netherlands could also be in a position to benefit from the advantages offered by video communication.

Thanks to the collaboration of Aethra’s Dutch video communications distributor 2Install, the association has organized experimental set-ups and held demonstrations of video communication equipment. The response has been positive, and it has become clear that video communication as a concept has surplus value. The positive response shows video communication to be an effective means of communication for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, people with multiple handicaps or those who for whatever reason, have difficulty using traditional means of communication. For this reason, this non-profit association is pushing for full recognition of such equipment by medical insurance companies.

Among the systems indicated as suitable for use by the deaf and hard of hearing by the Association of Deaf Children’s Parents in Haren, are three solutions from the large product

range offered by Aethra Telecommunications. The small footprint set-top Vega Pro, and the compact videophone, Maia NX are all high-quality, cost effective solutions that fit into the price range the Association of Deaf Children's Parents in Haren expect the Dutch College of Medical Insurance (CVZ) to indicate. These solutions are part of the new video communication line recently launched by Aethra, which prides itself on providing communication equipment capable of improving quality of life.

As video communication becomes increasingly recognized as a mainstream means of communication, and as government bodies and health ministries legislate accordingly, deaf and hard of hearing adults and children, as well as people with multiple handicaps and the elderly in many countries will be able to benefit from the technology and solutions companies such as Aethra are able to offer.

### **About Vereniging Ouders van Dove Kinderen te Haren**

*The Vereniging Ouders van Dove Kinderen te Haren (Association of Deaf Children's Parents in Haren, The Netherlands) was founded in 1955 by parents of students educated at the Koninklijk Instituut voor Doven 'H.D. Guyot' (Royal Institute for the Deaf 'H.D. Guyot'). The Association mainly represents parents and students living in the Northern part of the Netherlands. The main aims of the Association are:*

- *promote the interests of parents and their deaf child*
- *giving objective information on different issues regarding deafness*
- *increasing contact and mutual support between parents of deaf children*
- *offering practical support for parents and their deaf child.*

### **About Aethra**

*Aethra (www.Aethra.com) is a leader in the global telecommunications market, with distribution of its leading-edge products through more than 40 telecommunications carriers worldwide. The company develops, manufactures and markets a wide range of high-performance telecommunications products, including ISDN and xDSL products, video communication systems and audioconferencing solutions, and management solutions for audio, video and data services in over 60 countries. These exceptional products have distinguished Aethra as a leader in the telecommunications industry worldwide for over 30 years, reflecting its expertise in bringing cutting-edge communications technologies to market.*

<b>Vereniging Ouders van Dove Kinderen te Haren Contact:</b>	<b>2Install contact:</b>	<b>Aethra Press Contact:</b>
Roy Gierman	Paul Van den Brand	Jenny Flack
<a href="mailto:familiegierman@hetnet.nl">familiegierman@hetnet.nl</a>	Tel.: +31-342-470769	Tel.: +39 071 2189 745
Johan Wilterdink	Fax.: +31-342-422616	Fax.: +39 071 887077
<a href="mailto:johan.wilterdink@hccnet.nl">johan.wilterdink@hccnet.nl</a>	<a href="mailto:info@2install.nl">info@2install.nl</a>	<a href="mailto:j.flack@aethra.it">j.flack@aethra.it</a>