



S.C.M.<sup>SRL</sup>

SISTEMI DI COMUNICAZIONE MULTIMEDIALE

## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

### ONLINE SURGERY WITH VIRTUAL SURGICAL TRAINING NETWORK

*Smith & Nephew, S.C.M. and Aethra join forces to create an integrated platform for multi-videoconferencing and Web Streaming dedicated to the medical sector*

VIRTUAL SURGICAL TRAINING NETWORK (VSTN), the new integrated platform for multi-videoconferencing and Web Streaming, is the result of a partnership between Smith & Nephew, S.C.M. and Aethra, whose goals are to improve medical training with the use of online surgery. The project offers operating rooms, hospitals and medical schools all over the world, a network capable of developing and promoting advanced surgical training and scientific reporting. VIRTUAL SURGICAL TRAINING NETWORK exceeds the traditional concept of meetings and training by allowing surgeons who are directly involved in an operation to consult other doctors who are physically not present in the operating room.

The VSTN project currently involves 8 operating rooms in Italy (including Silvestrini in Perugia; Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi in Milano, Ospedale di Circolo in Varese), which are all remotely managed and connected via multi-videoconferencing with high speed connections, permitting complete Audio/Video interaction. The project aims to implement other hospitals and medical schools, not only Italian but foreign as well, into the network, such as the University of Barcelona. VSTN plans to not only expand horizontally, adding new sites, but also vertically by including Teleconsulting (Eykona 900) in the platform thanks to Aethra technology.

The platform allows remote sites to share content (i.e. surgical operations, films, slides) through Streaming, by simply connecting with the PC: The possibility to share such information via Streaming, either live or on demand, enriches the quality of medical training and reduces the hassles of transportation. Doctors and medical staff can participate without having to leave their hospitals or even from home. As a result, transportation expenses and the costs incurred for organizing a congress are drastically reduced, allowing the medical profession on the whole to be more productive.

## **Technical information**

In the Server Farm, the following have been installed with 100 Mb of connectivity:

- an Aethra MCU capable of connecting up to 8 sites with 1Mb each (other MCU units can be added to the system to increase the number of ports and therefore the number of sites that can be connected);
- an Aethra codec with IP connectivity;
- a codec and MCU interface server for remote management of the units;
- an encoder for the incoming audio/video signals;
- a server to distribute the signals via live or on demand Streaming.

Aethra codecs with IP connectivity integrated with Smith & Nephew's Digital OR systems (for the production of the audio/video signals to be transmitted in videoconferencing) have been installed in the operating rooms.

The platform is completely managed from Smith & Nephew's main site over IP, where users can manage, activate, deactivate multi-videoconferencing sessions, launch audio/video streaming, give authorization to passive listeners or participants wishing to join active meeting sessions, and monitor users' participation (i.e. number of users, length of time).

### **VIRTUAL SURGICAL TRAINING NETWORK is a result of:**

**Smith & Nephew**, leader in the advanced medical solutions sector for integrated operating rooms and orthopedic surgery - [www.smith-nephew.com](http://www.smith-nephew.com)

**S.C.M. srl**, specialized in installing and managing systems for virtual and interactive meetings - [www.scmvideo.com](http://www.scmvideo.com)

**Aethra Spa**, a top player in the telecommunications market and the leading company in Italy for video communications - [www.aethra.com](http://www.aethra.com)

###