

Malaysian Government Awards National Telemedicine Project to WorldCare Limited Affiliate

WorldCare Health Malaysia to Lead Thirty Month Pilot Teleconsultation Project

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 20 /PRNewswire/ -- WorldCare Limited, the leading, global, e-health services, technology and capitated insurance product company, today announced that its affiliate, WorldCare Health Malaysia, Sdn. Bhd. (WCHM) signed the teleconsultation contract for Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor Project.

WCHM's pilot project will link 41 government health care centers and hospitals, located strategically throughout Malaysia, into an integrated teleconsultation network. The initial focus of this new service will include Cardiovascular, Cancer Antenatal/Perinatal, Trauma and Emergency Medical teleconsultation. WorldCare will provide software, hardware, installation, technical support, operational training and maintenance to facilitate consultation between patients and physicians via linked medical instruments and imaging systems.

"We are honored to be chosen by the Government of Malaysia as the teleconsultation provider for the first nationally funded government initiative involving the private sector," said Nasser Menhall, CEO of WorldCare Limited. "As one of the largest and most experienced providers of global telemedicine services, we know that we can decrease health care costs while increasing efficiency and distribution of quality health care services for Malaysian patients."

This project is the world's first nationally established telemedicine network. Yet, it will also be utilized to support private sector access. In a unique public/private partnership, the Malaysian Government will permit use of the network to meet the needs of private physicians and patients. WorldCare will develop protocols to support both public and private sector telemedicine services thereby furthering the Government's mission to provide equity and access to the best health care services for all citizens, regardless of economic background.

"Having seen WorldCare's private sector Telemedicine Consultation Model operate successfully in many parts of the world, I feel confident that this public/private teleconsultation network will become the industry standard throughout Asia," said Rajiv Ramaprasad, Managing Director of WCHM. "Advanced telecommunications technology and the Internet have made second opinion medical consultation a global expectation. WorldCare's high quality e-consultation services and affordable telemedicine insurance products will make second opinion consultation and distance health care a reality for the Government and the private sector," he added.

WorldCare Technologies, Inc. (Technologies), an IT portal which provides Internet-based application solutions and services to the health care industry, designed the software that will power this 41-node teleconsultation network. Utilizing its OpenMed(TM) platform, designed

for WorldCare's Global Telemedicine Network, Technologies will power the Malaysian network, deploying an intelligent, multimodality, multi-specialty, clinical management platform for the creation, management, referral, transmission, storage and display of a multi-media Computerized Patient Record (CPR). Technologies CEO, Eman Safadi stated, "WorldCare Technologies has a proven track record in clinical information management and delivery, having secured several prestigious projects in competition with major IT and healthcare companies. We feel confident that our software will facilitate the medical infrastructure of Malaysia."

WCHM is a joint-venture company whose partners, in addition to WorldCare Limited, include Hospital Pantai Bhd (Malaysia), Mitsubishi Corporation (Japan) and Concorde Investments Ltd (Saudi Arabia).

WCHM was selected on a competitive basis to lead this project and, will, under the guidance of the Malaysian Ministry of Health, be solely responsible for implementing the teleconsultation application program structured under the auspices of Malaysia's new Multimedia Super Corridor initiative. Completion is scheduled for mid-2000.

About WorldCare Limited

WorldCare Limited facilitates the delivery of highly specialized and personalized electronic second medical opinions from the best medical centers in North America to local attending physicians for the benefit of their patients. From the transmission of the patient's record, made possible by Internet-empowered telecommunications technologies, to the collaborative process by which the distant specialist will examine the case, WorldCare is advancing the science of second opinion health care. These second opinions are provided by the WorldCare Consortium, which includes The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Duke University Hospital and Health System, Johns Hopkins Medicine and Partners HealthCare System, Inc., representing Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care and other leading teaching hospitals of Harvard Medical School. WorldCare's second medical opinions are covered by special programs sponsored by life and health insurance carriers throughout the world. Founded in 1992 through a joint effort with Massachusetts General Hospital, WorldCare maintains co-headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Paris, France, with regional offices in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Mexico City, Mexico and Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Source: WorldCare Limited

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