News Release:
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SIX NATIONAL EMERGENCY TELECRITICAL CARE NETWORK PLATFORMS ADVANCE TOWARD SUPPORT OF COVID SURGE

For Immediate Release – July 23, 2020

In support of the COVID-19 surge response, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's (USAMRDC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) has selected six clinical and technical teams to advance to Task 2 of the rapid development, deployment, and testing of the National Emergency Tele-Critical Care Network (NETCCN).

NETCCN is a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." These high acuity, virtual wards would bring high-quality critical care capability to nearly every bedside, be it healthcare facility, field hospital, or gymnasium. Based on cellular communication networks, mobile technologies and cloud computing, the NETCCN will support the extension of high-quality intensive care to locations that lack adequate critical care expertise and resources necessary for care of COVID-19-related illnesses.

"The COVID pandemic is stressing our Nation's critical care capacity and available clinical expertise. The six teams that completed Task 1 of the NETCCN project successfully demonstrated the ability to extend critical care expertise from anywhere to anywhere leveraging existing mobile networks. As we embark on Task 2, we're one step closer to bringing NETCCN into the fight against COVID," said COL Jeremy Pamplin, TATRC Director.

Through a 'step-wise' approach, the NETCCN project is funding teams consisting of healthcare organizations and technology vendors to rapidly, iteratively, and collaboratively prototype, test, and refine tele-critical care and data visualization solutions to support local, regional, and ultimately national COVID-19 care and situational awareness.

Task 1 of the NETCCN project consisted of a 15-day 'sprint' in which teams conducted initial system configuration and user testing. TATRC evaluated each of the nine initial teams' viability and system capabilities to meet the program's requirements for minimum essential characteristics (table) according to technical merit and using simulation testing in partnership with critical care specialists across the Nation.

Task 2 of the NETCCN project will include a 30-day 'sprint' of rapid development and beta testing of the platforms as the function for multiple patients and multiple care teams. The Teams' solutions will then undergo another round of evaluation, clinical simulation testing and down-selection of at least three additional teams.

The remaining teams will then move to Task 3, in which those teams will field their platforms for real-world use at scale.

"In the first NETCCN task, we charged teams to develop and configure minimum viable platforms to support tele-critical care of one patient at a time: capabilities for synchronous and asynchronous communications, basic documentation, data collection and reporting, patient registration and cohorting, and team organization and management, including handoffs. Task 2 challenges NETCCN teams to scale 'anywhere to anywhere' delivery of distant tele-critical care for many patients simultaneously, which will be needed to surge our national COVID care capacity," said Jeanette Little, NETCCN Program Director and Lab Lead for TATRC's Digital Health Innovation Center (DHIC).

Through the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC), Other Transaction Authority (OTA), TATRC has awarded the following six offeror teams for Phase 2 of the NETCCN project, which will commence on approximately July 22, 2020:

- Avera Health partnered with VitelNet, and DocBox

- Deloitte Consulting, LLP partnered with AWS GovCloud, Decisio Health, Elsevier, Qventus, T6 Health System, Verizon, and Zyter

- Expressions Network, LLC partnered with Mercy ACO Clinical Services, Active Innovations, and SDSE Networks

- The Geneva Foundation partnered with Omnicure, Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Discovery Network, DocBox, MD PnP Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC)/Telemedical Research for Operational Support (TR4OS)

- Phillips North America partnered with Emory Healthcare

- University of Pittsburgh partnered with UPMC Health System and Microsoft

About TATRC:

U.S. Army's Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center's (TATRC) is engaged in essential medical research focused on advanced medical technologies and is dedicated to bringing innovative telehealth solutions to the Warfighter and the Military Health System. TATRC fosters research on health informatics, telemedicine/m-Health, medical training systems and computational biology to address gaps in DOD medical research programs and military healthcare.

For more information on TATRC, please visit: https://www.tatrc.org/www/resources/covid-19.html.

About the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC):

The Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) is an enterprise partnership in collaboration with industry and academia to facilitate research and development activities, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) and other DoD agencies in the biomedical sciences (including but not limited to drugs, biologics, vaccines, medical software and medical devices) to protect, treat and optimize the health and performance of U.S. military personnel.

For more information on MTEC, please visit: https://www.mtec-sc.org/.

About the Awardees:

- Avera Health (https://www.avera.org/)

- Deloitte Consulting, LLP (https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en.html)

- Expressions Network, LLC (https://expr.net/)

- The Geneva Foundation (https://genevausa.org/)

- Phillips North America (https://www.usa.philips.com/)

- University of Pittsburgh (https://www.pitt.edu/)