

News



HealthCare

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3M ALIGNS WITH RSTAR TO MARKET PACS TECHNOLOGY

St. Paul, Minn. --June 22, 1993-- 3M has announced that it is "aggressively moving forward" with The Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) to make available MGH-developed technology to other health-care institutions. 3M and MGH will work with Cambridge, Mass.-based RSTAR, Inc. to bring 3M Mini-PACS for ICU/CCU/ER and Remote Print systems to market.

RSTAR, Inc. specializes in research and development for PACS-related technology, products and services. The technology was initially developed in a clinical environment by MGH's Department of Radiology PACS Group. Established in 1985, RSTAR was spun off by MGH as a for-profit company to make the technology available to other hospitals. This technology is the basis for 3M Mini-PACS.

According to Bob Harms, division vice president for 3M Medical Imaging Systems Division, field trials are now underway for the 3M Mini-PACS for ICU/CCU/ER and 3M expects to make the system available in 1993.

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3M ALIGNS WITH RSTAR TO MARKET PACS TECHNOLOGY
Page Two

3M Mini-PACS for ICU/CCU/ER will offer electronic image transmission of diagnostic radiologic images from radiology to an emergency room (ER), intensive care unit (ICU) or critical care unit (CCU). This will eliminate the need for physical delivery of diagnostic radiologic images, which can speed image distribution. 3M Mini-PACS for ICU/CCU/ER will allow users to view radiologic images on medium- or high-resolution monitors, or print these images using 3M Laser Imagers

The Remote Print system will allow digital images to be sent from remote sites to a central radiology department over a wide-area network. The transmitted images can be printed and then sent back to the original site along with a diagnosis. The initial system offering will support T1, switched 56, ISDN and 19.2 modem connections.

The systems will include 3M Digitizers to convert diagnostic X-ray images into digital data.

According to its agreements, 3M will handle the manufacturing, sales, marketing, service and support of these systems, while RSTAR is responsible for research, development and sustaining engineering. Both 3M and RSTAR are working closely with radiologists at MGH and other leading institutions to assure that the systems meet the needs of practicing radiologists and those served in clinical settings.

Harms said that 3M is also developing additional modular Mini-PACS systems and equipment that will follow the ACR-NEMA DICOM 3.0 standard migration path. Additionally, these systems will integrate with major HIS/RIS systems.

The RSTAR technology has accelerated patient care with MGH by electronically accessing the storage of off-site images on a monitor for reading at the main campus.

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3M ALIGNS WITH RSTAR TO MARKET PACS TECHNOLOGY
Page Three

MGH has also used a similar system at its main campus for its radiologists to accurately read images of patients at a major Massachusetts HMO located miles away. 3M Mini-PACS for ICU/CCU/ER and the Remote Print systems are based on this technology and will be sold through 3M Medical Imaging Systems globally.

With headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., 3M Medical Imaging Systems develops, manufactures and markets diagnostic imaging films and processors for X-ray and electronic imaging systems. It is the world's leading supplier of laser imaging machines for producing diagnostic images directly from electronic imaging systems and one of 15 health-care divisions at 3M.

3M is a diversified, international company with a \$2 billion health care business consisting of more than 10,000 medical, surgical, consumer and home health care, dental and pharmaceutical products. The goal of 3M Health Care is to supply reliable products and services that exceed customer expectations and make a difference in the practice, delivery and outcome of health care.

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