

DOCOMO, M3, and SONY Join Forces for ICT/IoT Integration in Healthcare
~ First COVID-19 Project: VR/AR Integrated “Virtual Excursions” for Hospitalized Patients ~

NTT DOCOMO, INC. (“DOCOMO,” below), M3 Inc. (“M3,” below), and Sony Corporation (“Sony,” below) has launched collaboration discussions for ICT/IoT integrated service provision towards medical sites and patients.

The COVID-19 impact has restricted hospital visitations by roughly 90%*¹, causing difficulty for patients to see their families and friends. Furthermore, clinical tasks such as monitoring and care provision for patients are also facing needs for reduction in direct patient contact, creating heightened demand of ICT and IoT technology that enables remote functionalities.

Telecommunications megacorp DOCOMO, healthcare ecosystem provider M3, and frontline IoT and AR/VR technology creator SONY, have agreed to conjoin in provision of ICT/IoT integrated solutions for the healthcare industry.

This collaboration aimed at new value creation within the healthcare industry, arose based on the two pre-existing business alliances, one being the capital alliance between DOCOMO and M3, and the other between Sony and M3 supported by the “Sony Global Relief Fund for COVID-19.” The three companies will join forces in supporting patients to “overcome disease and find passion in their lives.”

The first collaborative pilot will be a VR/AR assisted virtual excursion support service for hospitalized patients.

*1 Mar 31- Apr 1 M3 survey; 548 m3com members at hospitals with over 20 beds

■ **VR/AR Assisted Virtual Excursion Support**



<VR/AR assisted excursion image >

Programs under consideration include devices such as VR goggles that offer 360 degree views of a virtual “excursion” environment, and recreational activities that involve communication with AR based virtual characters.

Furthermore, creation of virtual visitation services offering real time VR video conversations with family and friends is also under discussion, and is expected to provide patients facing visitation restrictions with a sense of “home away from home.”

Going forward, this collaboration will address a broad range of issues in addition to patient QOL, such as communication hurdles between care providers and patients that arise amid COVID-19, which may be resolved by ICT/IoT services that support remote consultations and monitoring, remote procedural explanations and consent procurement from the patient and families, and remote second opinions.

Contact:

DOCOMO: healthcare-collaboration-ml@nttdocomo.com

M3: pr@m3.com

Sony: Sony.Pressroom@sony.co.jp