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Nokia LPS-3 Inductive Loop for Hearing-aid Users Now Available for More Mobile Phone Models

This device enables interaction between a hearing aid and a digital mobile phone. The Nokia Inductive Loopset LPS-3, weighing only 60 grams, is easy to use and gives people who use a T-coil equipped hearing aid the freedom to talk on a digital mobile phone. It consists of a wireloop, which goes around the user's neck and connects to the bottom of the mobile phone. The loopset transmits speech from the phone to the hearing aid in the ear. As in the Nokia LPS-1, the product also has a built-in microphone and thus provides full hands free operation for the user. Furthermore, it offers users the optimal audio level and diminishes background noise, making it easier to carry on a conversation in a noisy environment. The Nokia LPS-3 introduces an answer button which provides ultimate ease of use: answering or ending a call can be done easily simply by pressing the Answer button. A vibra functionality in the Nokia 8200 and 8800 series mobile phones further enhances ease of use.



All hearing aids support the induction loop technology, which has been used for decades in banks, churches, and other public premises to assist people who are hard of hearing. The hearing aid captures the signal supplied from the loop when it is on the T or MT-mode. This same technology is used in the Nokia loopsets.

"We are very excited to introduce the new Nokia Inductive Loopset, which further enhances the quality of life of people who use hearing aids. The Nokia LPS-1 was the first product of its kind in the world," says Harri Leinonen, Director, Accessory Product Marketing, Nokia Mobile Phones.

For more information, check out www.nokia.com.



Hamilton Telecommunications Awarded Kentucky Contract to Provide Relay Service to Hearing and Speech Disabled

On July 31st, the Kentucky Public Service Commission announced its decision to award the Telecommunications Relay Service ("TRS") contract for the state of Kentucky to Hamilton Telecommunications. This is the second consecutive contract awarded to Hamilton Telecommunications for Kentucky and covers a three-year time period with an option for two additional years. Dixie Ziegler, Director of Hamilton's Relay Service Division, said that, "Hamilton is pleased to be chosen as Kentucky's TRS provider and we look forward to continuing to provide premier relay service to Kentucky Relay users."

Requests for Proposal were submitted by AT&T, Hamilton Telecommunications, and Sprint. In his July 31st award letter, Martin Huelsmann, Executive Director of the Public Service Commission for Kentucky, stated that, "Based upon its evaluation, the Commission selects Hamilton to continue providing TRS for Kentucky. Hamilton has fulfilled the mandatory requirements of the RFP (Request for Proposal), demonstrated superiority in its technical abilities and corporate experience in the provision of this service and proposed to provide TRS in a cost-effective method. Hamilton will best meet the requirements of the deaf and hard-of-hearing persons and persons with speech disabilities in this Commonwealth".

In addition to providing state-of-the-art technology and skilled Communication Assistants ("CA"), Hamilton will offer a variety of features and services to further enhance relay communication. In December, people with speech disabilities will be able to communicate verbally with voice telephone users through use of specially trained CA's. Furthermore, by the end of the year, the minimum typing speed for Hamilton's CAs will be

increased from 45 to 60 words per minute providing quicker transmission of typed messages.

Individuals and organizations that would like more information, can contact a customer service representative at 1-800-618-4781 (voice/TTY), by E-mail at relay@hamilton.net or by mail at 1001 Twelfth Street, Aurora, Nebraska 68818.



Teltronics Introduces New Mobile Computing Software

*MentisSoft(r) iCommunicator(tm)
Opens New Doors of
Communication
for Hearing Impaired*

Teltronics, Inc. announced its subsidiary Interactive Solutions, Inc. (ISI), a leader in the mobile computing industry, has developed a new product offering, the MentisSoft(r) iCommunicator(tm) system. The iCommunicator system, on which ISI has a pending patent application, makes verbal communications possible between the hearing world and a hearing-impaired or profoundly deaf person. This multi-sensory device improves comprehension of spoken language and teaches reading, speech skills, and sign language.

"There are over 25 million hearing impaired and profoundly deaf people in the United States today, yet there have been few technological advancements that have improved the communication skills of the deaf, hearing- or speech- impaired, and blind deaf," states Michael Dorety, President of Interactive Solutions. "ISI, in partnership with the deaf community, has developed the iCommunicator, a breakthrough product that could improve the quality of life for

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millions of people with hearing impairments.”

The iCommunicator system converts speech into multiple streams of data for simultaneous presentation of text, video-sign language, and computer-generated speech. The data is synchronized and delivered in a format that allows comprehension of the spoken word.

The iCommunicator also aids in teaching reading and linguistics. On average, a deaf child leaves the school system at a sixth grade reading level. Statistically, over 90% of the families of the hearing-



A typical configuration of the iCommunicator screen

impaired and deaf do not understand sign language. The iCommunicator system will help bridge this gap by allowing hearing parents to talk directly with their deaf child. Other applications for the iCommunicator system include its use in medical facilities, emergency service vehicles, and government facilities.

“For the first time in history, a computer is opening new doors to communication between the severe or profoundly hearing-impaired and the hearing world,” said Dr. Herbert Silverstein, MD, FACS, President and Founder of the Ear Research Foundation of Sarasota.

For further information on the MentisSoft iCommunicator system, call:

888-463-0474
or
TTY 800-362-4584
or go to:
www.teachthedeaf.com.



PINAACL: New York School is pioneering global communications

A project pioneered in Junior High School 47 - School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is set to revolutionize communications and distance learning throughout the education sector. The installation of a TV distribution and videoconferencing solution by Pinacl Communication Systems enables students to communicate using sign language from classroom to classroom.

Thanks to the ground-breaking new system, the school's students (maximum capacity 440) now benefit from 2-way video reception in every classroom, plus 85 PC workstations configured to receive up to 20 cable TV channels. A media center will permit students to make their own broadcasts, while the Principal's office will be equipped to broadcast to all the students simultaneously.

In addition to the media facilities, Pinacl has also designed a security system comprising 28 internal and external CCTV cameras with connectivity enabling authorized personnel to view any camera from any workstation.

Michael Davies, Director of Technology at Junior High School 47, a Board of Education City of New York School, explains the importance of the new system. “Three years ago the State and City of New York approved the use of American Sign Language as the main form of communication between deaf students. We felt that it was vitally important that the students be able to communicate with each other through technology in a classroom environment, so the idea for a comprehensive videoconferencing system was born.”

Several vendors sent in bids to carry out the contract, but as Davies explains: “We wanted a system that was fully integrated with the school's IT network and could

offer international video links that would enable our students to communicate with other deaf students around the world. Pinacl offered the most comprehensive and advanced technology solution to meet our requirements.”

The solution is believed to be the first of its kind to be installed on such a scale in a school for deaf children, and Michael Davies hopes that it will lead to new opportunities for deaf students. “We plan to use the new technology designed by Pinacl to broaden our students' horizons, teaching them new media skills which they might not otherwise have the chance to develop.”

For more information, check:
www.pinacl.com



**Wynd Communications
Recognized by White House
With Participation in
10th Anniversary Celebration
of the Signing of the ADA**

*WyndTell Service Delivers
the Power of
Communications Accessibility
for People who are Deaf
or Hard of Hearing*

Wynd Communications Corporation was recognized by the White House with participation in a ceremony celebrating the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the celebration, Wynd demonstrated its award-winning WyndTell 2-way wireless communications service for Vice President Al Gore and his guests. Hosted by Vice President Gore on the grounds of his residence at the Naval

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Observatory, the event brought together products and services designed to level the playing field and enable equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Of the 25 companies chosen to participate in the celebration, Wynd was chosen for its exclusive focus on meeting the unique needs of people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired with specially designed 2-way wireless services.

“We are honored to have participated in the celebration of this landmark legislation,” said Dan Luis, president and CEO of Wynd Communications. “We believe that Wynd’s focus furthers the goal of the ADA by helping to ensure that Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired can enjoy a comparable level of wireless communications access as the general population, thereby enabling them to lead safer, more productive and connected lives.”

“The ADA has helped to increase the employment opportunities and upward mobility of people who are deaf or hard of hearing,” said Judith Viera, vice president of consumer and regulatory affairs for Wynd Communications. “As a person who is deaf, I’m delighted to have been a part of the commemoration and celebration of this progress.”

For more information about Wynd Communications and WyndTell, visit the Wynd Web site at <http://www.wynd.com>, or contact Wynd directly at TTY 800/549-2800, voice 805/781-6000 or e-mail info@wynd.com.

TALK.comSM

*Website for Sending
Brief Message to Voice Number*

There’s a website that allows you to type a brief message and it will call a voice number anywhere in the country. Check it out at www.talk.com/web.cgi/user/kc/kc4.htm



Ameriphone Introduces Four New Products for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Callers

Ameriphone has introduced four new products for callers who are deaf or hard of hearing. They are the CL40 Amplified Cordless Phone, Easy Recall Answering Machine, Dialogue ER-Emergency Response Phone and a portable printer for the Q-90(tm) TTY.



The CL40 amplified cordless phone is designed to offer the convenience of a cordless phone with the advanced amplification technology that hard of hearing callers need. A digital security system prevents eavesdropping from other phones. It also has a large lighted keypad, ten number speed-dial memory, an audio jack for connection to headset or cochlear implant and is hearing aid T-coil compatible.



The Easy Recall is an innovative answering machine can record both text and audio messages. This fully digital answering machine allows the owner

to call in to check for messages using voice or a TTY. This versatile answering machine includes a Toll Saver to save long distance charges when accessing messages remotely if there are no messages stored.



With a touch of a button on this phone or the remote control, the Dialogue ER begins a dialing sequence of up to six phone numbers that continues for eight tries until a live person is reached. This phone also has a security feature that will activate the dialing sequence if there has been no activity within a specified period. For everyday use, the Dialogue ER is also an amplified phone with big buttons, a loud ringer and a bright flasher.



Ameriphone now offers a portable printer for its popular Q-90(tm) TTY. It uses 2.25" wide standard thermal paper and can print in small, medium or large letter to suit any need. It operates either on six AA batteries or an AC adapter. A connecting cord is also included.

For information on pricing and availability, please call 714-897-1111 TTY; 714-897-0808 Voice or send e-mail to ameriphone@ameriphone.com. For more information about Ameriphone, go to www.ameriphone.com.