



ILLINOIS RURAL HEALTHNET (IRHN) ADVANCED MEDICAL CARE FOR RURAL ILLINOIS CITIZENS

The IRHN is a not-for-profit corporation of health care providers who have come together to deploy and maintain a high-speed network to connect rural hospitals and health care clinics in Illinois.

More than 80 rural health were linked to each other and to urban medical centers, allowing the transmission of electrocardiograms, CT scanner files, digital mammography files, and other diagnostic information that will facilitate consultation with specialists, faster medical treatment, and a reduced need to transport elderly citizens to distant hospitals.

Most of the hospitals working with the IRHN previously utilized T-1/1.5Mbps. circuits for data connectivity. The IRHN provides a minimum of 100 Mbps. upstream and downstream, and provides 1 Gigabit/second.

Adesta facilitated the deployment of the \$21M IRHN fiber optic medical network that allows residents of Illinois access to advanced medical care. Adesta provided design and construction services to connect hospitals and clinics to existing backbone fiber routes. These lateral construction builds were deployed across the state of Illinois to provide the 'last mile' connection. The President of Adesta said: "Adesta was thrilled to be able to work with the IRHN and to be a part of constructing this network that will provide Illinois healthcare facilities the ability to access advanced medical care."

The NIU Broadband Development Group, a university unit that specializes in planning, implementing, and optimizing broadband connectivity projects for municipalities and other large organizations, first conceived the state-wide network idea. Almost three years in the planning, the IRHN utilized the Broadband Development Group to handle the functions necessary to make the project a reality.

Funding for the initial network of more than 80 locations was provided primarily by the Federal Communications Commission

through its Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The IRHN provided the required 15 percent match, generously furnished by the state of Illinois.

"The IRHN network will speed the deployment of advanced medical technologies and vastly improve patient care and physician communication," said Alan Kraus, Director of the NIU Broadband Development Group.

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