

Retired Los Alamos Scientist to Work for Seattle Company on Major Healthcare Software Project

Seattle, WA (July 21, 2004) - Dr. Dave Forslund, PhD, a Senior Scientist at Seattle based Cognition Group, has begun work on a new electronic medical record system at the Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH) in Ukiah, California. Cognition group has been sub-contracted to work on the project by Browsersoft, Inc., ARCH's prime contractor for the project's software portion. Dr. Forslund recently retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory and joined Cognition Group to continue work on projects he started at the government lab.

The computer system, which is being developed under a grant from the Healthy Communities Access Program administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, will most likely be the largest Open Source medical information system in use at a private healthcare organization within the U.S. It will be built around software technology that Forslund developed over the last 10 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Forslund's software, OpenEMed, is a patient record system that is capable of storing basic medical information, images, audio, and graphical data. It has already been in use in rural New Mexico in projects with wide impact such as the New Mexico State Immunization Information System Pilot and the National Biodefense Initiative of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

ARCH's project, called Securing Health Access and Records Exchange (SHARE), and the selection of Dr. Forslund's software is a direct benefit of government funding to the healthcare community. Dr. Forslund says that ARCH's investment into OpenEMed related projects is a diligent reuse of work from earlier government funded projects that have also contributed to OpenEMed. More than \$5 million has been invested into OpenEMed prior to the ARCH project. The exact dollar amount that ARCH will invest into the continued development of OpenEMed is unclear at this time. What is clear, however is that OpenEMed is already freely available to the healthcare community, and any additions made to the software product during SHARE will also be freely available to every doctor in the world.

The project is also apparently seen by ARCH executives as a

significant step toward achieving President Bush's vision of creating a national electronic medical records infrastructure. Will Ross, the Chief Technology Officer of ARCH is attending the National Health Information Infrastructure conference this week put on by the Department of Health and Human Services. The conference is intended to serve as a public forum for those in the healthcare community committed to executing the vision laid out in President Bush's executive order signed in April which aims to create a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure.

The opening speech of the conference was given today by Tommy Thompson, the director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. David Brailer, Mr. Thompson's pick as the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, immediately followed Mr. Thompson's speech to lay out the strategic framework under which the health information technology infrastructure will be built. Dr. Brailer heads up the Office of the National Health Information Technology Coordinator, a new government position created by President Bush in April of this year by means of executive order. As part of its mission the office will help improve the coordination of care and information among hospitals and help guarantee that patient information is kept private.

Richard Schilling, Cognition's owner has placed the entire company behind Dr. Forslund's work. "Cognition Group employees are ready to make sure Doctor Forslund has every resource he needs to be successful at this project," he said. "The software we help create will be freely available to every physician in the US. With any luck we'll save the healthcare community billions in software licensing fees and contribute to President Bush's vision for a national healthcare technical infrastructure. This project is synergistic with the work we had already been doing."

Cognition Group's contract with Browsersoft, Inc. is complimentary to Cognition Groups' initiative to provide to the healthcare community, by 2015, all the software a healthcare organization needs without having to purchase a software license. The drive also includes operating systems.

About Cognition Group

Originally founded in 1999 as a privately held company, Cognition Group is a professional services firm that provides research and development services of information technologies, enterprise software development and business consulting services to the healthcare, construction, and real estate industries. Cognition Group works almost exclusively with open source software, software that is freely available to the public without any license fees, and addresses the business needs of companies that use open source to reduce costs and expand their customer base.

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About The Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH)

ARCH is a healthcare alliance consisting of the following healthcare organizations throughout rural California: Anderson Valley Health Center in Boonville, Long Valley Health Center in Laytonville, Mendocino Coast Clinics in Fort Bragg, Mendocino Community Health Clinic in Ukiah, Potter Valley Community Health Center in Potter Valley, and Redwood Coast Medical Services in Gualala. The mission of ARCH is to support Alliance members in providing quality healthcare to individuals and improving the health of their communities.

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About Browsersoft, Inc.

Browsersoft provides consulting services and software products designed to reduce development costs and accelerate time to market. Founded in 1998 by a team of high-tech software and business development professionals, Browsersoft specializes in the design and development of web-based enterprise applications.

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About Los Alamos National Laboratory

Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNDA) of the U.S. Department of Energy and works in partnership with NNDA's Sandia and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories to support NNDA in its mission. Los Alamos develops and applies science and technology to ensure the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent; reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction, proliferation and terrorism; and solve national problems in defense, energy, environment and infrastructure.

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About OpenEMed

OpenEMed is a set of distributed healthcare information service components built around the OMG distributed object specifications and the HL7 (and other) data standards and is written in Java for platform portability.

Project Website

www.openemed.org