

INNOVATIVE VIDEOCARE, HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS AND FAMILY LINKS FROM SOUTHERN FRANCE

Following months of research and development, a new tool that brings a better lifestyle by providing a secured digital link to those who assist in the life of older and less autonomous people has been launched in France. Visiovox, a touch screen pad, has been developed by Innovox, an alliance of a telecare terminal manufacturer, Intervox Systems (a subsidiary of Legrand Group), and Innoevo, a telecom operator that specialises in secured IP networks. The first tests of the new product began in an area, similar to the size of UK counties. The trial was developed by the alliance of local councils, Correze Telesistance, a regional telecare service provider, and senior people. This "live project" started in December 2010 in the holiday-destination of Correze, South of France. This rural area nearby the wine area of Bergerac, is branded as a low people density area and shares an important proportion of older people.

The Regional Council has been engaged in different schemes to support fragile people. The first move was to equip people with a telecare system, and 5000 terminals were implemented with home automation such as Gas sensors, smoke as well as Automatic fall detection device.

This step has been followed by the implementation of the touch screen pad in the home of one hundred elderly people with the objective to strength links with family members, to disseminate local information and to bring support to carers. The testers appreciate the security and the feeling of 'being closer' brought by the touch screen device. One of the testers from the beautiful but remote cottage of Juillac, even expressed his emotion as he followed his daughter's pregnancy on videophone call.

From this pilot, upgrades were made to the touch screen pad. Aside from the videophone

call, agenda applications and a personalised digital photo frame, the users can now contact GPs by pressing the touch screen with a single finger. Also, the beneficiaries entertain themselves with memory games and a much appreciated daily weather forecast is displayed on their screens.

The open platform device offers flexibility to the service providers and allows tailor-made solutions. The innovative product is bundled today with the telecare terminal and with physiological telehealth sensors such as scales, blood pressure measurer.

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