Executive Summary

This project addresses the problem of limited access to skilled neurologists for those people who present with stroke symptoms at a community facility. This project provides immediate access to a physician with the skills and knowledge to administer life saving treatment. The overall approach to addressing this need is to implement a sophisticated telemedicine solution using robots at the satellite hospitals that are driven by the neurologist at Memorial Hermann. This approach provides the diagnosing physician at Memorial Hermann with an immediate ability to examine the patient visually and engage with the patient to obtain accurate information regarding symptoms. This approach is innovative because the use of this technology will provide the doctor and patient the level of interaction that is as good as if the doctor was in the room. The technology has been tested, has been found to provide excellent medical outcome results and will provide the patient in a remote facility with access to the doctor she needs. The area to be served is southeast Texas. The estimated number of potential broadband subscribers will include all community hospitals that will be able to participate in this program. The opportunity for growth is unlimited. For this grant Memorial Hermann plans to add 5 new hospitals to this program and continue to add hospitals as the education and marketing of this service gets underway. Memorial Hermann is a large hospital system in Houston Texas with a state of the art stroke center. Memorial Hermann has a pilot tele neurology program in place that provides leading edge care for a broad range of neurological disorders. The initial pilot services are successful and provide support for the broadening of this pilot to community stroke facilities. This project will create a new organization within Memorial Hermann. There will be 8 new jobs for and administrator, technical support, administrative support as well as a physician. The overall cost for the Memorial Hermann Tele-Neurology Program will be $2,465,118.81.