ALBERTA INNOVATES

Accelerating Innovations into CarE – Validate Program (AICE-Validate)

Improving Access to Diagnostic Ultrasound in Rural and Remote Communities

PROJECT FAST FACTS

RECIPIENT: Wosler Corp.

AWARD: $300,000

AWARD DATE: November 30, 2022

PROJECT DURATION: 13 months

WOSLER DIAGNOSTICS

THE PROBLEM

Millions of rural and remote Canadians have limited or no access to diagnostic or obstetrical ultrasounds. Travelling long distances to major centers for treatment can be onerous, especially for pregnant patients. Throughout a normal pregnancy, patients require at least three scans, and more if complications arise. Recruiting and retaining ultrasound technicians in such areas are often challenging and costly. While mobile ultrasound or sonography has been suggested as a potential solution to bring the technology to patients, travelling in remote regions presents various risks. Moreover, many indigenous communities struggle to access diagnostic ultrasound services, necessitating travel outside their communities. This places a considerable financial, psychological, and social toll on patients, leading some to forego medically necessary scans.

THE SOLUTION

Wosler is a healthcare technology and service company that has developed a remotely operated ultrasound solution. Patients in rural communities or remote locations can be scanned by a sonographer situated in a major centre, alleviating the need for travel by either party. More specifically, Wosler proposes a solution using robotics—a remotely-controlled robotic arm holding an ultrasound probe, extending the reach of the sonographer.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Wosler intends for its solution to be demonstrated in the operational environment, pass all the required safety tests and certifications, be ready for manufacturing and proven as equivalent to traditional in-person ultrasound service.

ABOUT THE AICE-VALIDATE PROGRAM

AICE-Validate is an opportunity for Alberta's health-tech innovators to accelerate commercialization of digital and data-enabled health technologies through the early validation phase. If you'd like to learn more, please check out AICE Validate on the Alberta Innovates website.

Learn how

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