

I-DISCARE

Applications: Medical Education



"Based on satellite technologies the I-DISCARE system allows the bringing together of viable support for medical activities in remote, mobile and disaster situations."
Bernard Comet, Project Manager, MEDES



PRIME CONTRACTOR:

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PROJECT PARTNERS:

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PROFILE:

I-DISCARE, derived from an earlier system called Disaster Emergency Logistics Telemedicine Advanced Satellites System (DELTAASS), is one of the few possible solutions for rescue services when natural or man-made disasters destroy the telecommunications network. Medical emergency services, military medical services and humanitarian medical organisations will benefit from this system. I-DISCARE was tested by 11 organisations between January 2003 and January 2005. At the end of the project the system is commercially available on either a sale or lease basis from a new company MEDESSAT created in Toulouse in 2005 .

Originally conceived as a system solely for use in disaster areas where local communications had been destroyed - such as earthquake, tsunami, flooded areas - its planned range of applications has since been broadened for isolated and mobile sites.

"After the DELTAASS and I-DISCARE trials it became obvious that the overall system or parts of it would also be applicable in a wide range of contexts short of full-scale disaster," said Bernard Comet of MEDES.

The system makes full use of Compact Data Terminals, Ambulance Terminals and Portable Telemedicine Workstations, as well as satellite phones. Search and Rescue (SAR) workers use these for initial patient identification and triage. A patient's vital signs such as electrocardiograms (ECGs) and blood pressure are relayed to the dispatching operator.

The I-DISCARE dispatcher can also plot rescue teams' positions on a map of the area, enabling efficient 'top-down' management. Victims being evacuated in emergency vehicles can have their exact location and medical conditions remotely tracked by an Ambulance Terminal linked to onboard monitoring equipment.