

# Video link aims to cut op delays

## MP organises Westminster showcase for Winchester firm's 'life-changing' product

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WINCHESTER and Chandler's Ford MP, Steve Brine, stressed the importance of supporting local businesses as he hailed a product from a Hampshire company as "life-changing".

It's a live video-linking device, developed by Life Stream Healthcare to allow hospitals and surgeons to quickly decide treatment for NHS patients suffering a heart condition.

The new technology could reduce surgery waiting times by a third, say Life Stream, who showed the product to top cardiologists, radiologists and surgeons and to Department of Health officials at the House of Commons.

Mr Brine, who helped to arrange the presentation, said afterwards that they had all been "hugely impressed".

"This technology brings exciting times, not only for Life Stream, but for the NHS who, I hope, will," he added.

Life Stream enables cardiologists and surgeons to collaborate remotely and share images and videos of medical and surgical procedures in real time.

Professor Roger Boyle, national director of the Heart Disease and Stroke Vascular Programme, at the Department of Health, said: "Life Stream is an innovative new device that will enable patients to get the right choice of treatment quickly.

"There is a huge waste of beds in hospitals, with people waiting for decisions to be made. It should not be underestimated how important new technology like this is to advancing health-care in the UK."



**MP, Steve Brine, centre, pictured with Life Stream representatives and cardiologists and Department of Health officials at the House of Commons presentation.**

*Photograph by Graeme Webb*

Life Stream has been trialed in several hospitals and has been found to be effective even in areas with little internet signal.

Kate Willmer, consultant cardiologist at West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven, has tested the device.

"When a patient comes to see me with a heart problem, I have to communicate their symptoms to a surgeon via letters and post CDs showing footage of tests I have run.

"It can often take weeks to communicate what action is needed and when you are dealing with critical illnesses, time is precious.

"This new system enables me to speak directly to the surgeon in a matter of hours."

Inventor, John Cooper, who developed the technology from his tele-visuals business in Salisbury, said: "In tough economic

times, local businesses are forced to work harder to promote their products, but we have a device here that will make a real difference to patients with heart conditions.

"The system could also be used for patients suffering with cancer, neurological issues or strokes; it's the future of communication in the NHS. I am very proud to have developed something that will have such a great impact to people's lives."

Life Stream is now seeking further support from health officials to get the technology into hospitals throughout the country. The company currently runs its sales and marketing from offices at Shawford with the technical side of the business based at Salisbury.

However, it is looking to merge all functions into one new facility in Winchester.