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The Steria – Institut de France Foundation supports the Docteur Souris project at L'Archet 2 hospital in Nice, France

The Docteur Souris project, which opened today at L'Archet 2 hospital at Nice CHU (university hospital), aims to give hospitalised children access to computers to allow them to stay in touch with friends and family, keep up with the news and do schoolwork or simply entertain themselves. All rooms in the paediatric department (81 beds) have been equipped with the Docteur Souris solution along with the hospital's teaching unit. The Steria – Institut de France Foundation has supported the project by means of a €15,000 donation and voluntary assistance from a Steria employee.

Using IT to help hospitalised children feel less isolated

Hospitalised children are removed from their usual surroundings and therefore feel isolated from their families and social environment. With no individual or group leisure activities (games, outings, sports) available, their education is often disrupted too. IT – especially the internet – is an efficient means of combating this isolation. This is the principle applied by the Docteur Souris association, which was founded in 2003 and aims to give hospitalised children the means to communicate, learn and play all thanks to new technologies.

The new project for L'Archet 2 hospital at Nice CHU

As part of this new project, Docteur Souris has made 138 laptop computers available to the paediatric department (81 beds) and teaching unit at L'Archet 2 hospital in Nice. This allows children to stay in touch with their parents, friends, hospital referent or even each other, either live online or by leaving messages, using text, photos and video, all via an internal portal and using a directory of children staying at the hospital. The association also draws on a secure internet connection to provide a varied range of digital leisure activities (encyclopedias, edutainment and desktop software) and interactive educational content (revision, lesson preparation, exercises, progress monitoring).

The Steria – Institut de France Foundation's contribution: financial support and voluntary work

The Steria – Institut de France Foundation, which supports projects that use IT for educational, vocational and charitable purposes, decided to back the Docteur Souris project at L'Archet 2 hospital at Nice CHU with a €15,000 grant to finance 75 of the 138 laptop computers. Equipped with personal login codes, the children can now get back in touch with their everyday world and school life, thanks to the Paraschool software program and in association with the hospital's teaching unit.

Jean-Christophe, an engineer at Steria Nice, was motivated by the call put out by the Steria – Institut de France Foundation to the company's employees. He contacted Docteur Souris to offer his services. "I helped the association out in various ways. In terms of financial partners and sponsorship, I raised €150,000 in donations and in kind and secured sponsorship for the project from two well-known sportsmen: Franck Esposito, world record holding swimming champion and Olympic medalist, and footballer José Cobos, who captained the OGC Nice team until he retired in June 2005," he enthused. "I hope to stay involved in the project by leading workshops with the children and hospital staff."

The support provided to the Docteur Souris association highlights the Steria – Institut de France Foundation's commitment to educational projects. The Foundation has also been assisting the "Votre Ecole chez Vous" association for 4 years in using IT to provide home education to children who are unable to attend school due to illness or disability.

For more information, please visit www.fondationsteria.org

About the Institut de France (www.institut-de-france.fr)

The Institut de France groups together five academies: the Académie Française, the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Académie des Sciences, the Académie des Beaux-Arts and the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques. It was founded on 25 October 1795 and is currently chaired by Chancellor Gabriel de Broglie.

About Steria (www.steria.com)

Extensive expertise in its three core businesses of consulting, systems integration and managed services has made Steria a leading end-to-end IT services provider for companies and public authorities throughout Europe.

With a revenue of €1.3 billion in 2006 and over 10,000 employees, Steria is one of the top ten European IT services companies.

Understanding the challenges facing its customers enables Steria to design business-specific solutions with high added value in all of its fields of expertise – the public sector and healthcare, banking and insurance, telecommunications and utilities/transport/manufacturing – as well as innovative technological solutions.

Based on over 35 years' experience in managing large-scale projects, an exceptional ability to respond and an industrial approach to business, Steria has developed a result-based culture with a commitment to service quality and customer satisfaction.

Steria's employees, who hold 24% of the Group's capital, draw on its core values of simplicity, creativity, independence, respect and openness to transform the latest and most advanced information technologies into added-value services, enabling Steria to help its customers make progress.

Steria is listed on Euronext Paris, Eurolist (Compartment B).

About the Docteur Souris association

Docteur Souris is a non-profit association that provides an innovative solution for hospitalised or house-bound children. Thanks to its use of the latest technologies as regards laptop computers, wireless networks and internet access, the solution gives children and teenagers an opportunity to break out of their isolation, continue their

schooling or simply entertain themselves via a broad selection of leisure, cultural and educational activities and communication tools, including software designed for French schools.

The association was founded in 2003 and has already equipped six hospitals with the solution: Debrousse hospital in Lyon, Purpan hospital in Toulouse, L'Archet hospital in Nice and three hospitals in Paris (Armand Trousseau, Necker and Robert Debré). In just 3 years, Docteur Souris has teamed up with 50 paediatric departments where over 400 laptop computers are used daily and more than 20,000 children and teenagers connect to the system every year.

The association is supported by various companies, foundations, associations and local authorities that provide the financing, tools and services required to set up and maintain the projects. Docteur Souris is therefore supplied free of charge to the children, their families and hospital staff.

The Docteur Souris team has around fifteen active members, including volunteers, employees and interns, and around one hundred associate and honorary members and donors.

The list of partners can be viewed on the association's website: www.docteursouris.asso.fr.

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