Wisconsin company creates wireless network system for temporary COVID-19 testing sites

A Wisconsin telecommunications company has partnered with a computer networking business in Pennsylvania to create a private wireless network system just for hospital and clinical staff doing COVID-19 testing in pop-up or mobile triage setups.

Green Bay-based Baycom Inc., which is owned by OwnersEdge, an employee-owned holding corporation in Waukesha, is building the network system with Rajant Corp. from Malvern, Pennsylvania. These systems can be shipped and deployed anywhere in the U.S. and can connect to any pre-existing data network.

Depending on the location, the network can either be installed by Baycom technicians or by a technician in that area, said Baycom president Rob Dillon. Baycom has seven offices scattered across Wisconsin and Minnesota and could reach several locations in the Midwest, he said.

The network consists of multiple communication endpoints to provide data coverage in the temporary structure. The newly deployed network is then attached to the hospital's local area network, giving the new site a seamless broadband coverage that's connected to the existing network, Dillon said. The private network would help hospital and clinical staff have access to the internet and the health systems data for conducting admissions, viewing medical records, sending prescriptions, completing diagnostic imaging, and providing Wi-Fi for hospital personnel to connect to tablets, laptops and phones, Dillon said.

Dillon and his staff have already had conversations with many local area health care providers and are exploring potential needs with sites currently under consideration for mobile hospital surge units, he said.

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