

## **SoS-Connect**

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### **How can new technologies and approaches improve outcomes, reduce costs and/or improve response times for an emergency?**

New and evolving wireless technologies such as WiMAX imparts the capability to improve response times for an emergency by providing wireless applications which can be used efficiently to connect people for help and locate vital and essential items to save life. The improved collaborative environments can help wireless users to connect to emergency responders, media and close family members. Our solution aims to stream video, voice or plain text to save lives in a disaster zone. The new wireless technologies are also developed to be user friendly, ease of setup and highly secure.

### **If you were offered 10-15 minutes to give a short talk, what would it be?**

During any disaster, shortage of information related to safe shelter, food, medical assistance, water, physical help etc. leads to loss of lives that could otherwise have been saved. People in crisis and ones providing rescue effort need this information. The biggest concern for anyone during an emergency is to maintain constant connectivity to family and friends. Due to the global nature of most businesses, business organizations need to make sure their personnel are safe. Furthermore, organizations need to be in constant touch with their branch offices in the crisis area to make sure business losses are minimized.

We will talk about how we intend to develop a solution that provides a platform for easy exchange of critical information needed during disasters between people using a collaborative environment. This solution is ideal for a high bandwidth network provided by WiMAX – 4G network. However, we also provide low bandwidth support for users without high bandwidth services.

### **What are the most pressing business, process, organization and technical issues?**

The most pressing business issue is to raise fund to develop such needful solutions when we have already started laying the technical infrastructure of WiMAX. To market our solution to the general public and the emergency responding teams is a herculean task. The battery backup life, high-bandwidth wireless connectivity, high-precision location services, and affordable solutions are the most pressing technical and business issues. WiMAX solutions would help reducing many of these technical issues significantly, though.

### **What is the role of university research in this area?**

University research can help us to survey and study the most current and valuable needs of customers of our solution during a disaster. It can also help to build an intuitive collaborative environment using WiMAX mobile platform. Since CMU has been active in providing solutions that use collaborative environment, we would be leveraging this research and tools to our benefit in this project.

### **Do you want to propose and help run a new breakout group?**

We plan to develop and provide this solution with support from CMU, Cylab Research center, and fellow students.

### **What is the most important action the DMI can take?**

DMI can inter - connect people such as investors, emergency organization representatives, and people interested in disaster management to provide financial support and cooperation to build the solution.

