



[Cook County](#)
[DuPage County](#)
[Kane County](#)
[Lake County](#)
[McHenry County](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Illinois](#)
[Nation/World](#)



- [Autos](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Personals](#)
- [Place an ad](#)

[Business](#)[Sports](#)[Prep Sports](#)[Entertainment](#)

- [TV Listings](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Horoscope](#)

[Opinion/Editorial](#)

- [Letters](#)

[Commitments](#)[Food](#)[Health & Fitness](#)[Homes](#)[Suburban Living](#)[Travel](#)[Special Sections](#)[Resources](#)

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- [7-Day Search](#)
- [Archives Search](#)
- [Photo Archives](#)
- [Site Map](#)

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- [Home Delivery](#)
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West Chicago firm wins grant for wireless server

By Jake Griffin Daily Herald Staff Writer

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A West Chicago technology firm has secured a \$2 million federal grant to create a wireless computer server for personal use.

U.S. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, whose congressional district covers a portion of West Chicago, announced the grant for Rosetta-Wireless Corp. Monday.

"In round numbers, it represents nine people for two years of work," said company President Ed Bachner. "Hopefully, it will be enough to get us through all the very difficult technical hurdles."

The technology is similar to that of the cell phone, he said.

"The concept is everything you're sitting and doing right now (on your office computer), you can do from anywhere," Bachner said. "It's like a cell phone in that it made voices ubiquitous, and we're trying to do the same with information."

The company's vice president, Keith Campbell, said the Wireless Intelligent Personal Server device would allow people to access information from anywhere without the necessity of a landline or even a connection between the device and the computer.

"It's like a remote server," he said. "What we do is take all the information you have in one place and this automatically transfers it out to wherever you are."

Ideally, the information stored in the device could be accessed by another office computer, a laptop or even a portable electronic organizer.

"Imagine an EMT responding to a medical call and being able to access a patient's medical history before getting to the scene," Campbell said.

The company presented the idea to the Department of Commerce late last year and the proposal was one of 23 funded out of 600 presented.

The department's Advance Technology Program provides grants in the development of technologies that promise "significant commercial value and widespread benefits for the nation."

The company was founded in 2000 and works out of an office at the DuPage Airport Flight Center.

The firm hopes within six months to have demonstration models that would work off of the existing cellular infrastructure, Bachner said.

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