

## Tech hub to open sensor data to anyone

AP Associated Press

By Brian Bergstein, AP Technology Writer | April 11, 2007

BOSTON —Surely a lot of data gets crunched every minute in Cambridge, Mass., home of Harvard, MIT and lots of technology-focused companies. Now scientists hope to capture seriously fine-grained data about the very city itself, and let students and researchers elsewhere benefit.

Engineers at Harvard University and BBN Technologies Inc. are collaborating on what they believe is a first-of-its kind wireless sensor network atop Cambridge light poles.

Initially the sensors will grab weather data like temperature, rainfall and wind speeds, but eventually the project designers plan to integrate such things as pollution detectors and traffic monitors.

What's new about the system, known as CitySense, is that the sensor information will be entirely open to the public over the Web. And people anywhere can sign up for a slot to run experiments on the network.

So while a local doctor could check whether an asthma patient lives in a neighborhood with high levels of dangerous particulates, another researcher could use the system to model, say, how temperature and air pressure vary over short distances in an urban environment.

Even the data-transfer performance of the network itself — a "mesh" system in which each sensor acts as a transmitter and receiver — could be worth analyzing.

So far just a few sensors, each smaller than a football, are up on Cambridge light poles, which will also provide power to the devices.

But the National Science Foundation, which is fueling CitySense with \$900,000 over four years, expects it to grow to 100 sensors. Even Cambridge always could use some more data. ■

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# City of Cambridge

R-39.

## IN CITY COUNCIL

April 23, 2007

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR DECKER  
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR KELLEY  
COUNCILLOR MURPHY  
MAYOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS  
VICE MAYOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that engineers at Harvard University and BBN Technologies, Inc. are collaborating on a first-of-its kind wireless network atop Cambridge light poles; and

WHEREAS: The system, known as CitySense, is unique in that the sensor information will be entirely open to the public over the web; and

WHEREAS: The National Science Foundation will provide \$900,000 of funding over four years to enable this exciting new system to grow from the few sensors currently in place to 100 sensors; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating BBN Technologies, Inc. and Harvard University on their development of CitySense; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to BBN Technologies, Inc. and Harvard University on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 23, 2007.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

**RESOLUTION #39**

**Congratulations to BBN  
Technologies, Inc. and Harvard  
University on their development  
of CitSense, a wireless network  
atop Cambridge light poles.  
Councillor Sullivan and entire  
membership**

**In City Council  
April 23, 2007**

**ORDER ADOPTED**