



# Press Release

## Press Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **National Hearing Test Launches In Louisville**

*Phone-based test provides affordable, accurate, and widely available screening for tens of millions of Americans suffering from hearing loss*

**LOUISVILLE – MAY 5, 2014** – Nearly half of adults over the age of 48 experience hearing loss, and yet very few actually seek help. Left untreated, hearing loss can lead to job loss and income reduction, social isolation, embarrassment, and significantly lower quality of life. Hearing loss is irreversible, but if caught early, steps can be taken to keep it from worsening.

This was the impetus for a new hearing test now widely available in Louisville. Developed by hearing scientists with funding from the National Institutes of Health, The National Hearing Test is a quick, accurate and low-cost hearing screening. The \$8 screening can be conveniently taken over a telephone in the privacy of the home. It is provided as a public service and has no financial connection with any hearing products or services.

Communication Disorders Technology, Inc. launched the National Hearing Test, the country's first widely available phone-based test to provide tens of millions of hearing-impaired Americans with a scientifically valid, affordable test to screen for hearing impairment. The test was launched in Louisville last month.

The first test of its kind in the United States, the National Hearing Test overcomes many obstacles preventing people from being screened for hearing loss, including inconvenience and cost.

Most current hearing tests, many of which are offered by hearing aid companies require patients to make an appointment with an audiologist, which can lead to costs of up to \$150. The National Hearing Test is a not-for-profit project available to anyone by phone.

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The National Hearing Test works by having callers listen to a series of spoken numbers that are presented with a noise background. When the caller enters a series of numbers correctly, the next numbers are presented at a lower, more difficult level. The user's accuracy is measured in real time to determine the extent of hearing loss.

“Research shows that early intervention in hearing loss leads to better quality of life and greater success with hearing aids,” said Dr. Charles Watson, chief scientist for the National Hearing Test in the U.S. and professor emeritus of speech and hearing sciences at Indiana University, Bloomington. “Consequently, it’s important for anyone who suspects they’ve suffered hearing loss to have their hearing tested, and that a low-cost, convenient test be made widely available.”

The National Hearing Test was developed by Bloomington, Indiana-based Communication Disorders Technology, Inc., in partnership with Indiana University and the VU Medical Center of Amsterdam and with grant funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Learn more about the National Hearing Test at [www.nationalhearingtest.org](http://www.nationalhearingtest.org).

**About Communication Disorders Technology, Inc.**

Founded in 1989 by speech and hearing researchers at Indiana University, Communication Disorders Technology, Inc. develops software to treat speech, language, and hearing disorders. Visit CDT online at [www.comdistec.com](http://www.comdistec.com).