



## • Gov. Lynch sees extreme data analysis at Pease



NH Gov. John Lynch answers questions following a tour of Global Relief Technologies at the Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth Tuesday. Rich Beauchesne photo

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PORTSMOUTH — As continuous rainfall caused rivers to rise throughout the states of Maine and New Hampshire, Gov. John Lynch viewed real-time data reports from field operators in remote locations detailing tenuous conditions in northern Maine.

The governor was the latest dignitary to tour Global Relief Technologies, located at 30 New Hampshire Ave. at Pease International Tradeport. The company provides organizations, such as the American Red Cross, the ability to compile and communicate field reports from remote locations and extreme environments.

On Monday, GRT was called upon to help the state of Maine assess potential flooding emergencies due to recent rainfall and organize response. Wardens and other public safety officials used handheld personal digital assistants to send pictures and relay observations and response needs.

The system eliminates the need for paper reports and connects people in the field to a central command center via satellite feed to a secure Internet-based system, according to Michael Gray, GRT founder and chief executive officer.

"This technology is critical. It really is the future," said Gray. "You can collect data all day long, but if you're not analyzing it and you're not sharing it, you're not responding properly."

Lynch commended GRT for providing the technology and expanding its staff from three to 40 people in five years. Gray said that number is expected to continue to rise.

"It's very impressive," said Lynch. "It's particularly meaningful to me, having experienced half a dozen natural disasters in New Hampshire. A critical element of the response is good communication and getting accurate data about what's going on in the field."

"They provide the technology to make that happen," added Lynch. "Without good data, you can't make good decisions."



Tom Gerrish, director of information technology for Global Relief Technologies, explains some of the latest data collections to Gov. John Lynch during a tour of the facility at the Pease International Tradeport on Tuesday. Lynch will be in New Castle today, delivering the State of the State speech at a chamber breakfast event.

*Rich Beauchesne photo*