Programable Pacemaker

Pacesetter Systems, Inc., Sylmar, California, manufacturer of heart pacemakers, introduced in 1979 an advanced cardiac pacing system which allows a physician to reprogram a patient's implanted pacer without surgery. Called Programalith®, the system has two-way communications capability, an important innovation in heart-assist devices. It incorporates a number of technologies based on those employed by NASA to send coded instructions or queries to unmanned satellites and to receive information from satellites.

The Programalith system, shown below, consists

* Programalith is a registered trademark of Pacesetter Systems, Inc.