

BT wins multi-million pound NHS contract for London

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London LSP -

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BT today welcomed the fact that it has been awarded a ten-year contract, worth £996 million over the next ten years, by the Department of Health as part of the NHS National Programme for IT. As Local Service Provider for London, BT will design, deliver and operate integrated local patient record applications and systems for the whole London care community.

Sir Christopher Bland, BT's Chairman, said: "We are delighted to have been chosen by the NHS to deliver a key part of the National Programme for IT, one of the biggest and most ambitious healthcare IT projects in the world. Our technology and expertise will help to provide real benefits to NHS patients and staff. It will improve the working lives of nurses and doctors, offering easy and secure access to patient records. We look forward to working with the NHS to make this programme a powerful force for improving patient care."

Ben Verwaayen, BT's Chief Executive Officer, said: "These wins are BT's biggest ever, and evidence of the new face of BT truly emerging. This is BT taking on world class competition on its own territory and winning."

When fully implemented the NHS Care Records Service will enable NHS organisations to record and exchange patient and care information electronically, eliminating duplication of patient files and improving information-sharing between healthcare professionals.

BT is the prime contractor and will deliver and operate the service through Syntegra its systems integration subsidiary. It will work with a number of companies with world-class experience in the development, deployment and operation of healthcare IT systems.

Tim Smart, chief executive of Syntegra, commented: "We share the government's vision of the NHS as a world-class patient care provider and our people and the expert partners we have chosen to work with are committed to making that vision a reality."

BT is a leading provider of integrated business systems and the largest supplier of ICT services to the NHS:

NHSnet, Europe's largest private secure network, and the NHS Messaging Service, which delivers more than one million emails, prescriptions and clinical records each day, have together enabled NHS people to exchange and access information quickly a vital contribution to effective healthcare.

The NHS Numbers For Babies service ensures that within minutes of a baby's birth midwives can obtain their all-important NHS number. This unique identifier forms the basis of a lifelong electronic care record, eliminates incomplete or muddled sets of information and helps ensure prompt and appropriate care for infants right from birth.

BT technology underpins NHS Direct, which has provided help and advice on health matters to more than five million citizens.

NHS24 is another example of national programmes delivered and managed by BT for the benefit of NHS people and patients.

In London BT is currently delivering services to Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital, Camden Primary Care Trust, Islington Primary Care Trust and University College Hospital. BT is also providing data networks for Inner West London and East London and a local area network at Central Middlesex Hospital.

The NHS Care Records Service will work with the national applications being developed as part of the National Programme for IT. These include a nationally accessible patient record database, the electronic transfer of prescriptions and the introduction of electronic appointment booking in the summer of 2004.

Richard Granger, Director General of NHS IT says "I am delighted that we are now working with BT in implementing such an important element of the National Programme for IT, which will provide every patient an individual NHS Care Record.

"BT's commitment to this project has been clearly demonstrated throughout the procurement process and I look forward to working with them to deliver a world-class solution to patients and healthcare professionals alike."

Notes to Editors:

For the provision of IT systems and services by LSPs, England has been grouped into five geographic

regions. The London region houses many leading teaching hospitals and a diverse population with widely varying incomes.

About BT

BT Group plc is the listed holding company for an integrated group of businesses providing voice, data and video services in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. British Telecommunications plc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT Group, holds virtually all businesses and assets of the BT group.

BT is one of Europe's leading providers of telecommunications services. Its principal activities include local, national and international telecommunications services, higher-value broadband and internet products and services, and IT solutions. In the UK, BT serves over 20 million business and residential customers with more than 29 million exchange lines, as well as providing network services to other licensed operators.

BT consists principally of three lines of business:

- BT Retail, serving businesses and residential customers and including BT Openworld, one of the UK's leading ISPs.
- BT Wholesale, providing network services and solutions within the UK, including ADSL, conveyance, transit, bulk delivery of private circuits, frame relay and ISDN connections.
- BT Global Services, BT's managed services and solutions provider, serving multi-site organisations worldwide. Its core target market is the top 10,000 global multi-site organisations with European operations.

There are a number of other businesses within the BT group, including BT Exact, an internationally renowned centre of excellence in IT and networking technologies. It is also BT's technology and research and development business.

In the year ended 31 March 2003, BT's turnover was £18,727 million with profit before taxation of £1,829 million.

For more information, visit www.bt.com

About Syntegra

Syntegra is part of BT Group. It plays a key role in BT's ICT strategy as its expert in systems integration.

Syntegra employs more than 5000 business and technical professionals worldwide. In the financial year ending 30 March 2003 Syntegra reported revenues of £623 million.

Syntegra helps organisations transform the way that they operate by applying business knowledge and technology to make possible new and better ways of working.

Its primary activity is the provision of consultancy and systems integration services including change management, complex programme management and custom systems design, development and operation.

www.syntegra.com

Contacts:

Media enquiries

Alastair Turner

SPARX Communications

Tel: +44 (0)1753 893000

alastair@sparxgroup.co.uk

Barry Murphy

Syntegra

Tel: +44 (0)1252 777243

barry.murphy@syntegra.com