

MAJOR HOSPITAL UPGRADES IT NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE READY FOR 'SINGLE PATIENT RECORD'

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Network overhaul from Matrix puts Pembs & Derwen NHS Trust on track to meet exhaustive data demands of ambitious 'Informing Healthcare' Welsh NHS IT strategy

East Grinstead, UK, June 01, 2005: Matrix Communications Group plc (MXC) today announced it has upgraded the LAN and security infrastructure for Worthy Hospital – part of Pembrokeshire & Derwen NHS Trust - drastically improving data transfer performance of critical patient information while also enhancing network resilience, security and manageability. The £300,000 contract is a long-term investment by the Trust supported by funding from the Welsh Assembly Government's Informing Healthcare Programme, the strategy for the modernisation of Information and IT in the NHS in Wales.

"The new Foundry Networks based core infrastructure has realised a 100-fold bandwidth improvement in some parts of our network, eliminated single points of failure and provided a platform for extremely efficient management and administration," said Robin Jones, IM&T Manager for Pembrokeshire & Derwen NHS Trust. "The biggest benefit is that large, sensitive files such as X-Rays, picture archives and other patient data can now be manipulated and transmitted far more easily and quickly, enabling our medical professionals to provide a higher standard of patient care. Moving forward, this investment will give us a platform for the next 10 years and beyond as we embrace the Welsh Assembly's vision for the single patient record."

Matrix installed and integrated a highly resilient, high-throughput core based on the Foundry Networks FastIron 1500 modular switch, connected to other parts of the LAN with interfaces managing speeds between 1 and 10Gbps. Juniper firewalls have also been deployed to provide perimeter protection of all Trust sites connected to the WAN. Unparalleled management and monitoring capabilities are provided by Foundry's ASIC based sFlow tool, which provides administrators with complete visibility of the network without degrading performance. Matrix's contract with Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust also includes a five-year maintenance and support agreement.

"This network implementation has given the Trust a new lease of life with users noticing an immediate performance improvement, and patients sure to benefit by way of a more efficient and secure platform for their personal data," said Peter Baker, Head of Matrix Data. "We are seeing a number of NHS Trusts across the UK adopt similar strategies, investing in IT projects that directly affect the quality of patient services."

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About Matrix Communications:

Matrix Communications, a wholly owned subsidiary of Matrix Communication Group plc (www.mxcplc.com), is the UK's foremost independent IT integration company. Specialising in 'best of breed' versus 'best of brand' technologies it's innovative solutions and services encompass the full IT spectrum including voice, data, security, storage and carrier services.

Combining a consultative, customer oriented approach backed up by a comprehensive support structure that offers 24x7x365 support services anywhere in the world, it is fast becoming the IT solutions provider of choice in the UK.

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