

InTechnology partners with The Healthcare Facilities Consortium to deliver Push To Experience into the NHS

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InTechnology has signed a partnership agreement with The Healthcare Facilities Consortium (HFC) for the supply of InTechnology's Push To Experience (PTX) service into the NHS. HFC is a specialist, not-for-profit membership organisation that provides a range of membership benefits as well as software, information and management support services to professionals working in facilities, estates and related functions in the UK health sector. Specifically, InTechnology's PTX service will be available at a discounted rate to HFC members, representing significant savings for healthcare organisations.

Launched by InTechnology at the end of 2008, PTX is a new mobile service designed for remote workers who need to remain in close contact at the touch of a button. A natural successor to traditional 2-way radio (PMR) services, PTX utilises the global GSM network and low-cost handsets to improve coverage and allow everyone using the service to communicate quickly as well as cheaply. PTX incorporates several services in one package, including Push to Talk, Push to Locate and Push to Alert.

PTX is ideal for the NHS and emergency services market where traditionally workers have had to carry several different portable devices, including a mobile phone, radio and other devices. This is no longer necessary because PTX enabled handsets are highly integrated communication devices combining the functionality of a mobile phone with the instant communication of a 2-way radio. PTX also has almost unlimited geographic coverage which makes it a perfect solution for organisations with large field workforces.

"Working with HFC and Focused FM will give us direct access to over 600 healthcare trusts," explains Richard Quine, Director of Product Management for InTechnology. "Their expertise in the health sector is important because any solutions being sold into this vast and complex market need to be tailored and delivered appropriately."

Martin Fagan, CEO of HFC, said: "PTX is an extremely innovative product which has the potential to make a huge difference to the way many workers in the NHS operate. A significant number of NHS employees are actually involved in non-medical services, such as car parking attendants, hospital porters and security staff – these people will definitely benefit from a service which is designed to make their lives easier and at costs which will be extremely attractive to healthcare bodies."

PTX enables organisations to manage and communicate instantly with their field workforce direct from the office PC. Most importantly, it provides security for lone workers with constant communications, panic buttons, and GPS tracking. These GPS enabled PTT phones mean that the exact location of the user can be identified within seconds.

As well as having one to one communication with their colleagues, users of the PTT service can also broadcast their messages to a group of people at the same time. And companies only pay for the time used talking, regardless of the total duration of the call.

Ideal for any organisation where employees need to stay in regular and close contact with each other,

Push to Experience is an integrated service based on the very latest technology platforms.

Through Push to Locate, organisations can visually track, in real time, the location of a GPS enabled PTT phone anywhere in the country (or even the world) to within a few metres. This offers a number of benefits, including better protection of staff working on their own as well as better utilisation of the workforce.

PTX technology is based on InTechnology's own Mobile Tornado platform and InTechnology is the exclusive UK service provider for this platform.

PTX is also designed such that it can be quickly and easily integrated within an organisation's existing communications system.

The PTX service also offers a far greater level of security than existing PMR systems by leveraging GSM based encryption, proprietary communication protocols, and a highly secure core network environment with almost limitless range and no chance of third-party intrusion.

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About InTechnology - www.intechnology.co.uk

Established in 1983, InTechnology is in a unique position in the IT services market place, having a portfolio of value added voice and data services that are integrated and delivered over its own end to end quality assured IP network.

The business is now purely a managed services provider. It boasts the first Public Network connected IP Telephony switches, placing the business in a prime position to capitalise on the development of IP based Public Voice Networks. The broad managed data services portfolio is designed to remove risk and secure business information; these services are delivered from its World Class hosting centres, which are also connected to the IP network.

InTechnology employs almost 200 people, over 90% of whom are client facing. A newly formed Professional Services division leverages the deep level of skills held by its people, ensuring that the transition to the new world of IP is a smooth one.

The Healthcare Facilities Consortium (HFC) is a specialist, not-for-profit organisation that provides software, information and management support services to professionals working in facilities, estates and related functions in the UK health sector. Established in 1996, HFC is currently a wholly owned subsidiary of the NHS Confederation, the national, independent body that represents the wide range of organisations involved in healthcare for the NHS. In April 2009 it will become an independent body, to represent the E&FM sector.

To enjoy HFC's full range of benefits, organisations become 'Members' of the consortium, who in turn play a significant role in shaping and developing the company's range of products, services and activities. HFC has a small executive staff, with support operations being provided by staff at the Confederation's offices in central London. The company has a Board of Directors which includes representatives elected by HFC member organisations, as well as an executive and policy group made up from members of the NHS whose role is to provide the governance of the organisation.

HFC works as an information and services 'hub', providing a link between a range of carefully chosen FM product and service partners and suppliers, on the one hand, and member organisations and their users on the other. The company also works in close association with a range of other representative and specialist groups involved in the health and FM arena, including HEFMA, ADM, and IHEEM, and, of course, the NHS Confederation itself.