

Healthcare e-commerce from GHX becoming a “compelling force” in Europe

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Tuesday, 14 April 2009

sub-headline: 2008 figures show acceleration of suppliers and providers switching to paperless trading to enjoy major cost savings and efficiency improvements that also deliver greater patient safety

GHX Europe – a subsidiary of the global healthcare e-commerce exchange provider, GHX - responsible for markets in the UK, Germany, Benelux, Austria and Switzerland - has released its summary report on activity in 2008, highlights of which include:

- 2,322 new trading pairs were established during the year. A trading pair is an e-commerce link between a supplier and a healthcare provider, such as a hospital or healthcare trust or Group Purchasing Organisation.
- More than 200 suppliers of medical devices and pharmaceuticals and over 1,000 healthcare providers Europe-wide are now trading electronically through GHX exchanges.
- On mainland Europe, these organisations completed 1,124,158 e-transactions in 2008, a 7% increase on the 2007 total of 1,050,425.

The UK experienced a 30% increase, from 598,993 in 2007 to 861,091 in 2008. A further 24,883 UK purchase orders for multinational suppliers outside the UK were routed through GHX's European exchange in Düsseldorf.

Germany accounted for 994,997 of this total, a 5.5% increase on the previous year

- GHX added 5% more suppliers, including some of the world's leading medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, to the already impressive roster of organisations using GHX Exchange in 2008.

The GHX Exchange is an entirely neutral and highly efficient platform for healthcare e-commerce. It is calculated that it takes 50%-70% less effort to process an electronic order than a manual, paper-based order.

David Kerr, GHX's VP Europe, commented: "These figures are extremely encouraging and illustrate clearly that more and more healthcare providers and their suppliers are realising and enjoying the benefits of paperless trading, with all its implications for greater efficiency, cost saving and patient safety. We really do feel that the benefits of healthcare e-commerce are becoming a compelling force in Europe and look forward to bringing the good news to an ever-growing audience in 2009 and beyond."

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About GHX UK Ltd

GHX operates a transaction platform for suppliers and providers, with an array of different modules and

services for e-procurement and integration, as well as the registration, management and examination of SKU master data. In 2008, GHX processed more than \$30 billion of transactions worldwide. Via GHX's central interface (GHX Exchange), currently over 200 medical institutions and 200 suppliers in the UK are communicating and trading electronically. Founded in 2001 and owned by a consortium representing the entire healthcare supply chain, GHX's global headquarters are in Denver, Colorado. The company's European headquarters are in Düsseldorf, with a local sales and development/technical support office in the UK to meet the particular needs of the NHS. Further information: <http://www.ghxuk.com> .

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