



Diagnostic Imaging fit for future generations

University Hospital of North Staffordshire

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A Case Study

University Hospital of North Staffordshire

Siemens provides 21st Century equipment solution to new hospital.

The University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust is building and equipping two new hospitals in the Stoke-on Trent area. The hospitals are being developed by John Laing Social Infrastructure and Sodexo, with Siemens providing a £50 million managed equipment service.

The MES contract will give the Trust access to leading-edge medical imaging systems and services over a 15-year period. The partnership offers several advantages including; the provision of new equipment to agreed output specifications, a rolling equipment replacement programme, system updates and technology refreshes, maintenance and service support and operator and technician training.

Fact File:

- The Siemens contract includes a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) which will replace film based X-ray.
- Siemens will install £11m of equipment into the University Hospital.
- The hospital will be completed in 2014.



Diagnostic imaging fit for future generations

Delivering a high standard of diagnostic care to patients in the local area is a main priority for all NHS Trusts. Innovative equipment in modern facilities delivers enhanced treatment to patients whilst reducing waiting. It also boosts existing staff morale and helps with further recruitment.

North Staffordshire NHS Trust face a number of challenges to meet the needs of an ageing and somewhat deprived local population. Its current buildings range in age from 10 to 150 years and are spread out over ninety acres. Patients therefore need to be transported between departments for different elements of care. This not only adds time to examinations, but also requires the physical transfer of patient records and X-ray images adding to clerical workloads plus risking data loss.

Meeting the challenges of 21st century healthcare

In the summer of 2007, a PFI programme valued at over £300 million was approved by The Treasury and Department of Health for two new hospitals, a community and acute facility, to serve the population of Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, the Staffordshire Moorlands and surrounding areas. The project named 'Fit for the Future' will transform the local healthcare environment with the new buildings ready for use by 2009 and 2014.

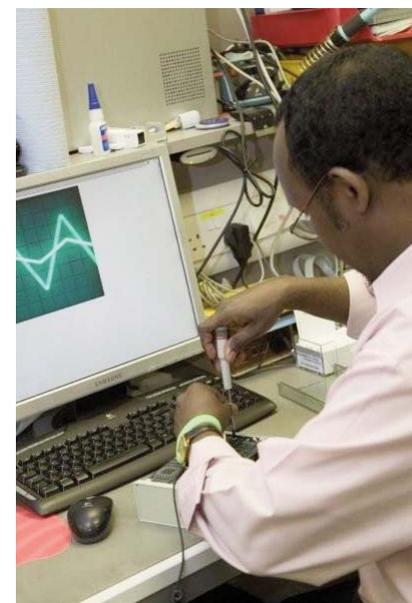
Mike Brereton, Chairman of University Hospital of North Staffordshire stated, "This area has been in need of new hospitals and a new way of providing healthcare for many years but this PFI construction programme is about more than new hospital buildings. It's a major element in the drive to regenerate the economy of North Staffordshire."

He continues, "The impact of the Fit for the Future programme and the work of our partners over the next few years will transform the quality of life of our children and grandchildren. Nothing could be more important."

The new acute hospital, University Hospital of North Staffordshire, includes a 15-year Managed Equipment Service (MES) agreement with Siemens Healthcare to deliver, manage and dispose of 'big ticket' medical imaging devices. The remit includes new state-of-the-art MRI scanners, CT scanners, fluoroscopy systems, Gamma cameras, cardiac catheter labs, digital X-ray and a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS).

With modern equipment in place, clinicians can offer a wider range of minimally invasive procedures that reduce patient anxiety, improve diagnostic accuracy and greatly speed up the examination process.

Fiona Jones, Deputy Project Director at University Hospital of North Staffordshire commented, "Siemens will help us to provide patients with the very best care through innovative medical imaging equipment. It has a proven track record in delivering projects on time and we are confident that what we need will be delivered."



"Siemens helps us provide patients with the very best care possible."

Fiona Jones, Deputy Project Director, University Hospital of North Staffordshire

More than just technology.

The all encompassing nature of an MES agreement means that equipment is maintained to pre-agreed schedules, users are regularly trained on the functionality and there is just one point of contact for any concerns. This maximises equipment uptime ensuring that a broad range of clinical requirements can be met as and when they are needed. With equipment concerns in the hands of a specialist partner, clinicians can focus on providing a superior standard of care to patients.

The stable finance plan, part of the long-term MES agreement, also ensures that equipment will be upgraded or renewed well before the recommended replacement age. This keeps pace with industry innovation so that new procedures can be offered to patients more quickly than before.

Delivering information to the heart of the clinical process.

The PACS system, integral to the MES agreement, will be rolled out across hospital departments including the emergency care unit. This will enable the instant archiving of clinical images from the medical equipment such as MRI and general X-ray devices and allow the rapid recall of information at any time afterwards for further examination or reporting purposes.

Consulting clinicians and radiologists will benefit from sharing patient image information, even if in different hospital locations, by enabling deeper opinions on cases and even case note reporting from outside their usual department.

The digitisation of all clinical images will also eliminate the risk of lost X-ray films. Patients and clerical staff will not need to physically carry files as the data can be viewed on workstations within departments.

Demonstrating value for money.

As clinical images will be digital and stored electronically, cost savings will also be realised over the long term period. The need for dedicated real estate space for hard copy file storage is removed and workloads on clerical and physical file transportation time are reduced.

The MES agreement will also offer value for money over the long term when compared to Trusts looking after equipment themselves. Regular investment meetings and reporting procedures are put into place as part of the MES agreement which helps managers in their daily duties and looks to continually provide service efficiencies. Risk is also transferred away from the Trust to Siemens.