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Ekahau Helps Heartlands Hospital Optimize its Operating Rooms

Patient tracking solution powered by Ekahau helps hospital to reduce human errors and improve OR efficiency.

Saratoga, California - October 26th, 2004 - Ekahau Inc. today announced that Birmingham Heartlands hospital in the UK is trialing a patient location tracking system based on Ekahau Positioning Engine (EPE) 3.0 software and Ekahau T101 Wi-Fi tags. The first pilot phase was completed successfully as a cooperative effort between Ekahau Inc, Daconi Wireless Ltd, Intelligent Medical Microsystems Ltd and Birmingham Heartlands Hospital. Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust (Teaching) is one of the largest acute hospital Trusts in England.

Location tracking systems are increasingly being installed in Operating Rooms (OR) to help track and manage patients, personnel, and critical equipment. Users are finding that location tracking systems increase productivity and reduce bottlenecks while improving the overall quality of patient care.

The Ekahau Positioning Engine (EPE) 3.0 is a software-based location tracking platform. EPE 3.0 is ideally suited for hospitals to track patients, assets and to locate caregivers in emergencies. Unlike competing systems, the Ekahau solution works over any standard Wi-Fi infrastructure, significantly reducing the deployment time and costs associated with building a separate infrastructure. The Ekahau system can be easily deployed wherever there is Wi-Fi coverage, without disrupting the facility's daily operation.

The key benefit for deploying a location tracking system in the Heartlands case was to improve the quality of the OR process. Says Mr. David Morgan, Consultant ENT Surgeon, "Litigation costs are starving the NHS of funds. Our current paper process is error prone, technology is available now which can help reduce human error and improve Operating Room theatre efficiency. These improved efficiencies translate into saving more lives, reducing costs and significantly improving the patient experience." Conceived by clinicians at Intelligent Medical Microsystems, this is the first tracking system to 'mistake proof' a medical process by using passive decision support technology.

Daconi, who provided the integration of a secure turnkey solution for Heartlands, selected EPE 3.0 and the T101 tags to enable the Daconi WiSec™ software platform to perform location tracking functions. "The advantage of using Ekahau's location tracking solution is that it works with standard Wi-Fi infrastructure and it can be deployed in a matter of days." states Keith Jones, Daconi's CEO. "The speed and nature of deployment over standard Wi-Fi were major considerations that allowed us to deploy the system without interrupting daily activities at Heartlands Hospital."

About Heartlands Hospital

Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust (Teaching) is one of the largest acute hospital Trusts in England. The Trust is made up of Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull Hospitals as well as a satellite specialist unit. The Trust sees over half a million patients a year across these three sites. The hospitals have around 1300 beds between them and provide the full range of district general hospital services as well as regional specialties.

About Daconi

Daconi has its headquarters in Coventry (UK). Daconi Healthcare Solutions is based in Dublin (Ireland). Daconi provide innovative turnkey solutions that enable ubiquitous computing based on WiFi & WiMAX technologies. Daconi's WiSec™ middleware platform provides a secure environment for location-aware applications. Daconi Healthcare Solutions develop innovative healthcare applications in partnership with clinicians. For more information about Daconi please visit www.daconi.net

About Intelligent Medical Microsystems

IMM develops solutions utilising intelligent microsystems within a healthcare environment. Its aim is to bring to market technological solutions in a realistic timeframe that will make healthcare more efficient and safer. Based in a hospital setting has allowed IMM to gain a unique insight into the problems of modern healthcare resulting in an 'end user' approach utilising advanced intelligent microsystems. 'Designed by clinicians – technology making medicine safer' please visit www.medicalmicrosystems.co.uk

About Ekahau, Inc.

Ekahau, Inc. is the industry leader in location-enabling Wi-Fi networks. Ekahau's customers include leading corporations around the world that are realizing the benefits of Wi-Fi-based location services and innovative network planning and optimization tools. Ekahau partners include wireless software developers, leading system integrators, and international OEM partners, who develop and market next generation location-based applications. For more information about Ekahau, please visit at www.ekahau.com

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