

£140 Million Managed Equipment Service Commences

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Asteral have announced a £140 million (at today's prices), 18.9 year Managed Equipment Service (MES) contract. This is the largest stand alone MES contract in Europe to date.

Under the terms of the agreement, Asteral will install, commission, maintain and manage the latest equipment across the Trust's multiple sites for the lifetime of the contract. It will also provide project management, training and related support services across each site.

Helen Seth, Deputy Director of Operations at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, states, "This is an innovative approach



to the procurement, management and replacement of over 210 items of clinical equipment that will deliver real benefits to the patients served across the health-care community of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland using our hospitals."

Asteral's MES model delivers a fully integrated approach to procurement, management and maintenance of medical equipment. Asteral is completely independent of the equipment supply compa-

nies. In partnership with the Trust it uses its scientific and medical engineering expertise to ensure the optimum combination of equipment is selected to meet each Hospital's needs.

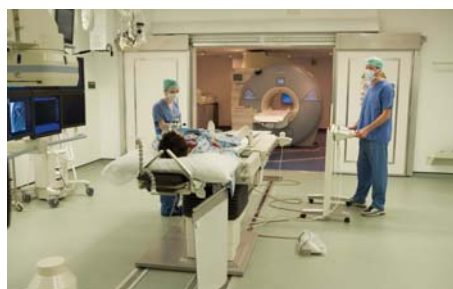
Further information can be found at www.asteral.com

Great Ormond Street Hospital opens innovative new MR & CT Imaging Centre

Great Ormond Street Hospital has officially opened its state-of-the-art MR & CT Imaging Centre. The new facility has been developed to provide a high quality diagnostic imaging and interventional treatment service whilst ensuring comfort for its young patients.

The Siemens portfolio at Great Ormond Street Hospital includes an independent MAGNETOM Avanto Cardiac MR unit; a MAGNETOM Avanto MR combined with an 'Artis dBC' Cardiac Angio suite incorporating Myabi patient transfer table and a SOMATOM Definition Dual Source CT Scanner. A 'Symbia T2' SPECT/CT Nuclear Medicine Scanner is also due to be installed shortly. All equipment is connected to a Siemens PACS and Medcon Cardiac system for fast image archiving and recall.

"Great Ormond Street Hospital is a recognised centre of excellence for paediatric diagnosis and treatment," said Peter Harrison, Director of Imaging & Oncology Systems at Siemens. "We are delighted to have been involved in the provision of new equipment and in devising a unique and bespoke MRI and angiography solution. Collectively the new equipment will extend the provision of care offered to patients and work towards improv-



Unique MR & Cardiac Angiography suite connected by Myabi table in situ and operational at Great Ormond Street Hospital's new MR & CT Imaging Centre.

ing clinical outcomes well into the future."

The official opening event was held on 17th January 2008 and involved key hospital stakeholders. Dr Jane Collins, Chief Executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital addressed the guests and assisted Oliver Barlin, a 9-year-old patient, to unveil the commemorative plaque marking the opening of the new MR & CT Imaging Centre.

For more information contact: Siemens
T. +44 (0)1276 696000,
E. medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com
W. www.siemens.co.uk/medical

Artis zeego provides imaging excellence and unrivalled flexibility for interventional environments



Artis zeego®, the newly launched multi-axis C-arm for interventional imaging, has been installed at the Institute for Clinical Radiology at the University of Munich Hospital. The rotation technology enables the physician to view vessels more easily from various sides, especially when evaluating tumours or vascular diseases.

Peter Harrison, Director of Imaging & Oncology Systems at Siemens, claims that "The zeego heralds the introduction of automotive industry precision robotics in angiography systems. The flexibility of the mechanics affords clinicians unprecedented flexibility and vessel visibility. The system also significantly increases image volume coverage and simplifies workflow during intervention,"

The engineering and development of this new angiography system has transferred from industrial robotics. The Artis zeego has 8 pivot points extending imaging capabilities through virtually unrestricted C-arm positioning, giving unprecedented flexibility in catheter labs and operating rooms. The extra positioning flexibility allows for advanced cross-sectional imaging not achievable with traditional C-arm systems and also enables off-centre rotational angiography for all areas of the body. The Artis zeego is part of the Siemens Artis zee family of interventional cardiology and radiology systems.

For more information contact: Siemens
T. +44 (0)1276 696000,
E. medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com
W. www.siemens.com/artis-zee.

'Just doodle it!'

What do Joanna Lumley, Ricky Gervais and Suzanne Shaw all have in common? The answer, National Doodle Day 2008 of course! The nation's doodlers are being encouraged to join these celebrities and put pen to paper and join the fifth National Doodle Day on March 7.

The event raises vital funds for Epilepsy Action and The Neurofibromatosis Association and with the support of Lloyds Pharmacy and BIC stationary. Both companies have generously donated large prizes for a number of this

year's competitions.

With a theme of 'Just doodle it' it appears as though many celebrities have done just that. We have already received doodles from an array of celebrities from Sir Ian McKellen to Sally Gunnell and from Sir Bobby Charlton to Nick Park!

To celebrate, people can take part in the competition by picking up individual entry cards at branches of Lloydspharmacy for a £1



donation. Judging will be carried out by Maureen Lipman, the Doodle Day patron.

Paul Tranter, Epilepsy Action's fundraising manager, said: "We're now on our fifth National Doodle Day, we're hoping that lots of people are going to get involved and let their creativity flow."

For further information visit www.nationaldoodleday.org.uk or
T. +44 (0)113 210 8800.

Hand-carried ultrasound benefits ICU and surgical patients



(L to R) Tim Clarke, Rudi Brits and Stephen Holgate with their MicroMaxx ultrasound system.

Intensive care consultants and anaesthetists at the East Lancashire NHS Hospitals Trust, UK, rely on SonoSite hand-carried ultrasound systems for placing central lines, and for performing nerve blocks during upper and lower limb surgery at the Royal Blackburn and Burnley hospitals.

"We use our MicroMaxx® ultrasound system

on a daily basis for interscalene, femoral and sciatic nerve blocks, as well as for vascular access," said Dr Rudi Brits, Consultant in Intensive Care and Anaesthesia at the Royal Blackburn Hospital. "Being able to visualise the nerve as well as the anaesthetic during the injection has a number of advantages and in time we hope to see greater success rates, reduced risk of complications and less requirement for anaesthetic."

"The MicroMaxx system is very compact and easy to carry around, and its clear image resolution also makes it a really good teaching aid," Dr Brits continued. "Several of our staff are attending ultrasound training courses and can just pick up the system whenever a block is being performed, so they are constantly learning."

For more information,
T. +44 (0)1462 444 800,
F. +44 (0)1462 444 801
E. europe@sonosite.com
W. www.sonosite.com

Overcoming challenging delivery of MRI magnets

New access road built especially for the bulky and heavy delivery

London's National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery has recently taken delivery of three large MRI magnets for machines from the Total Imaging Matrix (Tim™) family, as part of the ongoing project to complete the building of the hospital's new imaging centre.

Gary Cook, London Sales Manager at Siemens states, "The delivery of large MRI magnets can sometimes present problems due to their weight and dimensions, especially to older hospital sites that have unknown ground-work or underground vaults. However, by working in partnership with hos-



pital estate managers, construction companies and project managers all situations can be overcome. The end of an equipment sale is just the start of the delivery and installation process."

Further technology will be delivered to London's National Hospital new imaging department in due course. This includes a biplane neurology system, CT scanner and another MRI scanner.

For more information contact: Siemens
T. +44 (0)1276 696000,
E. medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com

W. www.siemens.co.uk/medical

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Answering questions for life in the 21st century

Siemens debuts its MR & CT innovations to satisfy UK clinical and cost expectations



Gunter Dombrowe, Managing Director of Siemens Medical, welcomes guests to the launch evening at the Science Museum in London.

The latest innovations in the field of CT and MRI imaging have been formally launched in the UK by Siemens at the Science Museum in London.

A high-field 3T MRI system, the MAGNETOM Verio and an adaptable single source CT, the SOMATOM Definition AS, have both been designed to offer advanced imaging functionality for routine and specialised clinical procedures at a much more viable capital cost for the UK health marketplace.

With the NHS and private diagnostic centres demanding higher throughput rates and a return on investment, the new systems meet clinical and cost expectations.

The MAGNETOM Verio is a 3T field strength MRI and can be used in neurology and functional neuro evaluation, orthopaedic and cartilage assessment, breast, vascular and cardiac imaging. It has a wider than normal open bore (70cm) and features Tim™ (Total imaging matrix) in one powerful system. This offers advanced imaging capabilities with the patient's comfort in mind. Furthermore, it is an affordable capital purchase and efficient to operate.

The SOMATOM Definition AS and Definition AS+ break with the normal conventions of CT as the world's first adaptive scanners. This simply means they can adapt to any patient or clinical need in routine diagnostic work and complex examinations including cardiology, neurology and oncology.

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T. +44 (0)1276 696000,
E. medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com
W. www.siemens.co.uk/medical

The SOMATOM Definition AS on show.



Partnerships in Care opens its first facility in Scotland

Partnerships in Care (PIC), the UK's leading independent provider of specialist mental health care and related services, is pleased to announce the purchase of its first hospital in Scotland, The Ayr Clinic in Ayrshire.

The Ayr Clinic is a 24 bed low secure, purpose built psychiatric unit providing secure in-patient care and treatment for men and women suffering from mental illness, personality disorder or a mild learning disability.

On completion of the purchase, Myles

Paterson, Regional Executive Director for Partnerships in Care in Scotland said, "We look forward to working in partnership with The Scottish Forensic Network and the local health boards to extend our first class mental health services to new purchasers, enhancing the quality of existing services and building on the good relationships that have already been established."

Andreana Adamson, Chair of the Forensic Network in Scotland, welcomes the arrival of



PiC to Scotland: "PIC has a well respected reputation in the field. Clinicians are experienced in referring patients to the services PIC offer in specialist forensic services, particularly in their units in the North of England."

For more information:

T. +44 (0) 20 8327 1818

E. LHamblin@partnershipsincare.co.uk



Partnerships in Care launches its brand new website

Partnerships in Care (PiC), the UK's leading independent provider of specialist mental health care and related services, is pleased to announce today the launch of its brand new company website at www.partnershipsincare.co.uk

The new site provides commissioners, healthcare professionals and other audiences interested in PiC with:

- increased functionality, including easier and more intuitive site navigation
- more in-depth information on the local services we provide
- further assistance for referrals
- an online job application process

The launch ties in with PiC's latest hospital acquisition, The Ayr Clinic in Scotland, announced separately today.

Fred Sinclair-Brown, Group Chief Executive of Partnerships in Care said: "We now have 23 hospitals providing services to over 180 primary care trusts, commissioning consortia and social services. We are excited to launch a new website that reflects the size and depth of our organisation and hope the new website provides customers and other interested parties with easy access to all the information they need."

For more information:

T. +44 (0)20 8327 1818,

E. LHamblin@partnershipsincare.co.uk

Awards and Appointments



Cheque presented to president of MND Association

President of the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association, Lembit Opik MP, was presented with a cheque for £5,000 from The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF), the charitable trust associated with HSF health plan. The cheque was presented to Lembit at the House of Commons and is to be invested in research into MND.

After receiving the cheque Lembit said: "The HSF has always been a life saver and today they've put their money behind this noble intent by giving

a hugely generous £5,000 to the cause of curing MND.

"Every penny of the money given by HSF will be matched by the Government. So, in effect, this is a £10,000 contribution to the search for a cure.

"On behalf of all those living with MND, and those who won't suffer it one day in the not-too-distant future, I thank HSF, their staff and their vision of a world free of MND. It's a vision we all share."

The Encephalitis Society proudly welcomes their first president

Actors Martin Kemp, Patron of the Encephalitis Society and Mathew Bose, Ambassador for the Encephalitis Society welcomed the first President of the Encephalitis Society, Professor Barbara Wilson, OBE. The event took place on 17 October 2007 during a cruise along the river Thames in London.

The Encephalitis Society is the only resource of its kind in the world providing direct support, information and education to people affected by encephalitis and the professionals involved in their care. On behalf of the Society, Martin Kemp welcomed Professor Barbara Wilson, OBE,

'I am delighted to welcome Professor Wilson and look forward to working with her in our quest to support people affected by encephalitis and to raise awareness of this very grave syndrome,'. Professor Wilson has been a long standing clinical advisor to



Ava Easton, Development Manager, Encephalitis Society, Martin Kemp and Professor Barbara Wilson, OBE.

the Society and on her forthcoming retirement from the Medical Research Council, accepted the position of President of the Society. Professor Wilson is a clinical neuropsychologist and international expert on memory problems following acquired brain injury: 'It is a great honour to be invited to accept this position with the Encephalitis Society,' said Professor Wilson. 'In my own field of brain injury rehabilitation, the patients most frequently referred for cognitive rehabilitation are those with traumatic brain injury but after that the diagnostic group most seen are survivors of encephalitis. The professionalism and innovation shown by the Society in their quest to support and inform is quite breathtaking.'

For further information contact: The Encephalitis Society, 7b Saville Street, Malton, YO17 7LL, Tel. +44 (0)1653 692 583, E. ava@encephalitis.info W. www.encephalitis.info