iSOFT installs new A&E solution at Darent Valley NHS hospital

Banbury –– 27 July 2010 –– iSOFT Group Limited (ASX: ISF) today announced that Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust has switched to its new A&E system under plans for all clinical staff at the 460-bed Darent Valley Hospital at Dartford to order radiology and pathology tests online, and follows an upgrade of iSOFT's hospital information system (HIS) last year.

The new A&E solution replaces Ascribe's Symphony product, which has been in place for ten years. Interfaces to link Symphony with the HIS proved too complex and problematic for the trust's ambition to progress to an electronic patient record.

"With A&E accounting for 30% of all hospital orders for pathology and radiology tests, it is vital to have reliable order communications and that demands seamless integration of A&E, HIS, pathology and radiology," said Leslieann Osborn, the trust's Assistant Director of Service Development. "Ordering tests electronically, and being able to see what tests have been ordered, is a huge benefit to doctors, and avoids duplication directly benefiting patient care."

The 200-plus staff in A&E also prefer the new system. Screens are clearer and easier to understand and the admissions process is now faster. Printing of wristbands and labels for blood products is also saving time. The new bed board has enabled bed management across the entire hospital and a new tracking module gives staff an exact view of all patients and status. This also allows senior staff to monitor waiting times, capacity and bed availability to ensure targets are met.

The wider clinical users are also expected to see benefits as Clinical Correspondence, Discharge Notifications and Nursing Documentation are now available seamlessly across all specialties covering A&E, inpatient and outpatient episodes of care.

"This is further evidence of our continued commitment and ongoing investment in patient and hospital management systems and determination to support our customers' ambitions and moves to EPR," said Adrian Stevens, Managing Director of iSOFT's UK and Ireland business.

The new functions were developed in co-operation with Darent Valley using an agile development approach, which halved the development time to just three months. Clinical staff sat with iSOFT developers to specify the new functions and were given each software iteration to test and feed back comments. "It was a highly interactive and co-operative process that has proved hugely successful and one that we will employ in future developments," said Leslieann Osborn. "Adopting this new approach enabled us to meet our timescales for replacing the A&E system and roll out of electronic order communications across the trust."

The move is also part of a drive to increase efficiency in A&E. Darent Valley deals with an average 2,000 A&E cases a week with numbers rising steadily. But the trust also expects an influx of patents if plans to close A&E at the nearby Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup go ahead.

End of release

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About iSOFT Group

iSOFT Group Limited (ASX: ISF) is the largest health information technology company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange, and among the world's biggest providers of advanced application solutions in modern healthcare economies.

iSOFT works with healthcare professionals to design and build software applications that answer all of the difficult questions posed by today's healthcare delivery challenges. Our solutions act as a catalyst for change, supporting free exchange of critical information across diverse care settings and participating organisations.

Today, more than 13,000 provider organisations in over 40 countries use iSOFT's solutions to manage patient information and drive improvements in their core processes. The group's sustainable development is delivered through careful planning, in-depth analysis of the market, and anticipation of our clients' evolving requirements. Our business is driven by the collective talent, experience and commitment of more than 4,700 specialists in 19 countries worldwide, including more than 2,700 technology and development professionals.

A global network of iSOFT subsidiaries, supported by an extensive partner network, provides substantial experience of national healthcare markets. As a result, we offer our clients comprehensive knowledge of local market requirements in terms of culture, language, working practices, regulation and organizational structure.

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