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NHS SCOTLAND BUILDS NATIONWIDE HEALTHCARE NETWORK WITH CISCO AND BT

Cisco WAN connects 3000 Scottish National Health Service sites

Edinburgh, Scotland, August 16, 2005 – The National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland is set to improve patient care and help save up to 50 percent of network development costs using Cisco Systems technology to create a broadband New National Network (N3), connecting 3000 NHS locations in Scotland from hospitals to doctor’s surgeries, high-street chemists and eventually dentists. By creating a faster and higher capacity network, tele-medicine applications such as a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) and real-time video diagnosis will become more reliable and available to remote parts of Scotland.

“This project represents one of the biggest Information Communication Technology (ICT) procurements ever undertaken by NHS Scotland and it underpins the whole of Scotland’s e-health strategy,” says Ron MacDonald, principal consultant, National Services, NHS Scotland. “The N3 network will help to improve the provision of healthcare for Scotland’s population of five million people because it delivers a more reliable network. Using the network, for example, to send digital images of a patient’s condition in the Shetlands to specialists in Glasgow or Edinburgh, means that medical expertise is far more accessible to patients in remote areas.”

The Cisco network reduces costs further by integrating video, voice and data over a single network infrastructure. The network will also enable busy consultants to share expertise more widely with video conferencing and will help NHS Scotland improve administration with applications such as managing doctors and dentist payments on-line and e-procurement.

The project in Scotland replaces an older, less extensive network only capable of supporting data communications and will link up every NHS-related site in Scotland. Scheduled for completion in 2007, the project is part of the UK wide N3 scheme to build a fast, reliable network for new applications being delivered by the National Programme for IT.

The new NHS Scotland network uses Cisco 10720, 7200 and 1700 Series Routers. The solution is being developed and installed by Cisco Gold Certified Partner, BT.

“The NHS Scotland project is a huge endorsement for the way in which Cisco technology is being used to enable the NHS to deliver a new generation of health service to the community,” said Gordon Thomson, General Manager – Scotland, Cisco Systems UK & Ireland. “This deployment means that patients will benefit from more efficient and faster healthcare provision.”

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About Cisco Systems

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