

BMI Healthcare opts for future-proof digital mammography to meet evolving clinical needs

Siemens named as BMI Healthcare's exclusive provider of mammography systems

Siemens Healthcare has been awarded a two-year framework agreement to be the exclusive provider of Full-Field Direct Digital Mammography systems to BMI Healthcare, the UK's largest independent healthcare provider and a subsidiary of General Healthcare Group.

The MAMMOMAT Inspiration™ systems with integrated MoodLight provide an open and inviting environment for patients. New breast compression technologies, paddle design and mood lighting offer the latest in patient comfort. Clinical and user needs are also met by providing efficient digital workflow to improve patient throughput, plus superior image resolution of the whole breast is delivered to assist with detailed diagnosis.

It is also a future-proof solution for stereotactic biopsy and provides 3D imaging using tomosynthesis. A simple upgrade will ensure seamless transition so that the system can offer screening, diagnosis and tomosynthesis on a single digital platform.

The first two installations have taken place at BMI The Somerfield Hospital in Maidstone and BMI The Esperance Hospital in Eastbourne. The systems will be used for symptomatic examinations following GP referrals.

"The MAMMOMAT Inspiration meets our needs for symptomatic and screening work and is also a forward looking system that can grow with clinical aspirations. For example, adding Tomosynthesis is a simple and attractive option rather than needing a forklift upgrade at a later date," states Katie

Taylor, Director of Imaging at General Healthcare Group. “The quality and standard of comfort offered to patients was also a main priority in the selection process. The aesthetic element of MoodLights on the system is unique and will be beneficial in reducing the anxiety experienced by some patients to help achieve a good quality image first time.”

The MAMMOMAT Inspiration’s unique MoodLight feature emits changing and calming colours into the patient examination area to help ease patient anxiety during mammograms. Further patient comfort is achieved through new compression technologies and a paddle design, while the patient is submitted to a minimised amount of dose due to a special X-ray tube. Using tungsten technology, the system optimises the dose required according to breast size and composition.

“Full-Field Digital Mammography is the future in breast care. The MAMMOMAT Inspiration is a long-term investment that not only meets the needs of today but will grow with clinical diagnosis requirements into the future,” states David Wilkins, National Sales Manager at Siemens Healthcare. “We are delighted to have been awarded the framework by BMI Healthcare and look forward to working with its regional hospitals in rolling out the installations and training users.”

- ends -

About Siemens Healthcare

The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world’s largest suppliers to the healthcare industry. The company is a renowned medical solutions provider with core competence and innovative strength in diagnostic and therapeutic technologies as well as in knowledge engineering, including information technology and system integration. With its laboratory diagnostics acquisitions, Siemens Healthcare is the first integrated healthcare company, bringing together imaging and lab diagnostics, therapy and healthcare information technology solutions, supplemented by consulting and support services. Siemens Healthcare delivers solutions across the entire continuum of care – from prevention and early detection, to diagnosis, therapy and care. Additionally, Siemens Healthcare is the global market leader in innovative hearing instruments. The company employs more than 49,000 people worldwide and operates in 130 countries. In the fiscal year 2008 (Sept. 30), Siemens Healthcare reported sales of €11.2 billion, orders of €11.8 billion, and Sector profit of €1.2 billion. Further information can be found by visiting <http://www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare>.

About BMI Healthcare

BMI Healthcare is the UK’s largest private health care provider with acute care private patient hospitals and outpatient centres in close to 60 locations around the country. Handling over 250,000 inpatient and one million outpatient visits each year, nearly half of the procedures undertaken for private patients are of a major or complex nature.

BMI Healthcare Limited is a subsidiary of General Healthcare Group Limited. For more information, visit www.bmihealthcare.co.uk.

Approximately 431 words

9 April 2009

For more information or images please contact:

Georgina Wright / Dorothy Chandler

Media Safari

T: 01225 731388

E: georginaw@mediasafari.co.uk / dorothyc@mediasafari.co.uk

Kerry Milton

PR Manager

Siemens plc

T: 01276 696338

E: kerry.milton@siemens.com

Linda Apeles / Kayleigh Moore

BMI Healthcare

T: 02070 094544 / 02070 094504

E: pressoffice@bmihealthcare.co.uk / kmoore@generalhealthcare.co.uk

Picture caption: The official opening of the MAMMOMAT Inspiration™ at BMI The Somerfield Hospital. (Left to right): Cheryl Beames, Radiology Manager, Peter Jones, Consultant Breast & General Surgeon, Councillor Denise Joy, Mayor of Maidstone.

