Case Study

Internet Videocommunications partnered with a NHS Foundation Trust providing services to some 1.9 million people, plus specialist services such as cancer care, neurosciences, cardiac services and children's intensive care to more than 3.7 million people in central southern England and the Channel Islands. The Trust is also a major centre for teaching and research.

Challenge

- The need for High Definition Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Audio-Visual and Video conference facilities to act as a hub for cancer services to other hospitals in the wider region.
- The need for review and local diagnostic imaging in the room.
- Simplicity in terms of user interface and connection for presenting.
- To communicate over the N3 and Public Internet seamlessly.

Solution

- Full consultation from Internet Videocommunications design team to ensure all needs were being addressed to the exact standards of their requirements.
- Medical standard DICOM compliant displays to allow for local diagnostics.
- Polycom RealPresence Group video conference system for holding MDT meetings with other trusts, remote hospitals and remote users.
- Video conferencing infrastructure design and implementation to allow seamless connectivity between the Trust and N3 plus the Public Internet from rooms systems and personal devices.

- The design and programming of a simple control panel to control the system and its inputs.
- An innovative solution which allows for any two sources to be viewed and sent to the far end at the same time, from a choice of Local Room Video, Microscope Images, PACS including Pathology Images and Radiology Images as well as Electronic Patient Records (EPR) and Hospital Information Systems (HIS).

Results

With the refresh of the MDT systems the Trust is now communicating to other Trusts like never before over High Definition, whilst also conducting local diagnostics in purpose built rooms designed for larger meetings. The Video conferencing solutions installed ensured the highest standard of audio, video and diagnostic data, while the easy to navigate intuitive control panel meant little training in the new solution was needed.

The implementation of the dual content stream only further added to the diversity of the system allowing patient data to be shown alongside PACS at the same time so everyone in the meeting was 'on the same page'. With this in mind user adoption has been high and the trust has found that their efficiency in MDT meetings has improved massively as a result. Just on salaried time alone, the projected return on investment from the MDT facilities will be rapid and significant, seeing the solutions pay for themselves within a 10 week period.