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Press Release

THE IPSWICH HOSPITAL NHS TRUST IS FIRST TO BOOK PC COACHING MTUs UNDER NHS CFH FRAMEWORK

The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is the first beneficiary to book PC Coaching mobile training units (MTUs) after NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) appointed the firm as the sole provider of MTUs and trainers across England last autumn.

The 800-bed hospital used two stand-alone PC Pods on-site to facilitate the iSOFT training needs of over 1,300 staff, including administrative and clerical staff, nurses and surgeons on its patient administration system.

The two-year framework agreement, managed by NHS CFH's Education, Training and Development Programme, addresses the training facility shortage across the NHS for end user training delivery, in an initiative designed to strengthen support for the National Programme for IT (NPFIT).

Neil Turnbull, head of programme delivery at Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust commented:

"We've used PC Coaching MTUs for very successful IT skills development roll-outs before, but while we needed to increase training capacity, under the new framework agreement we also achieved significant cost savings of nearly 20 per cent.

"The PC Pods meant the training proved most successful. We were able to manage the whole training process with minimal disruption to staff working schedules.

Our staff obtained the necessary additional IT skills in a state-of-the-art, well laid-out learning environment - in comfort too. A key benefit staff highlighted in the positive delegate feedback received."

PC Coaching's NHS project director Phil Gray said:

"We are delighted The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is the first 'onboard' under the framework agreement - especially so soon after we've been chosen to support the National Programme.

And that The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust has benefited from the available resulting lower costs. Other hospitals too would benefit in this way.

"The agreement with NHS Connecting for Health makes it easier - and much faster - for NHS trusts to access our mobile training facilities and trainers.

"It ensures the training solution has been quality assured, as well as achieving significant cost savings from procuring nationally, rather than locally."

Note to editors

About the framework agreement

The National Programme for IT in the NHS is believed to be one of the largest civil IT projects in the world. It will deliver new, linked IT systems and services to help modernise the NHS and make sure care is centred around the patient.

A vital part of this project is the education, training and skills development of NHS staff. The NHS employs over 1.3 million people and NHS Connecting for Health recognises the importance of helping them to understand and effectively use the new IT systems being implemented.

MTUs on NHS sites help minimise disruption to frontline staff by providing training where it is needed, at the right time and in harmony with local system implementation, through a cost-effective solution.

PC Coaching has been working closely with the NHS for the past five years, training over 10,000 NHS staff onboard its mobile training rooms.

The largest supplier of MTUs across Europe, its IT-equipped training suites can be quickly and conveniently set-up on NHS sites, providing additional training space.

The MTUs range from specially modified coaches to custom-built units accommodating 8 to 12 delegates. Equipped with PCs and a range of learning tools, the MTUs are fitted-out to the same standard as a conventional high end IT training suite. They have the additional advantage that they can be easily deployed to any location, and connected to the NHS National Network known as N3.

- **About PC Coaching**

PC Coaching runs Europe's largest fleet of mobile training units.

The company's experience, gained from working closely within the NHS, plus its high corporate sector profile, mean it is well placed to support large IT training rollouts via its innovative PC Coaches and PC Pods.

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- **About NHS Connecting for Health**

NHS Connecting for Health is an agency of the Department of Health. It is responsible for delivering the IT systems and services, which will help to create a more modern, efficient NHS. It will enable information to be shared between NHS organisations across England.

All those involved in the care of a patient will have secure access to up-to-date, accurate information for improved diagnosis, treatment and care. Patients will also have easier access to their own health and care information.

For further information visit www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk.

- **About The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust**

The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is one of the largest and busiest general hospitals in the East of England. It provides the full range of general hospital treatment and is one of the leading centres in the country for radiotherapy treatment for cancer.

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