

CUSTOMER CASE



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*Johannes Weindel,
CEO, Friedrichshafen Hospital*

Friedrichshafen Hospital, Germany

Continuing 100-year history of innovation with installation of new DR solution

DX-D 600 offers Full Leg / Full Spine* and
features MUSICA² image processing software



“With a total of 400 full leg and 5,000 thorax acquisitions annually, the fully digital solution will act as our workhorse for routine exams.”

*Gerhard Blauert,
Head technologist,
Friedrichshafen Hospital*

Friedrichshafen is the second largest city on the shores of Lake Constance, in the south of Germany. Over one hundred years ago, the hospital that would become Friedrichshafen Hospital was built here, in line with standards considered modern at that time. As a result of the city's expansion, it became clear in the early 1970s that further modernization of the hospital was necessary. Founded in 2005, Friedrichshafen Hospital continues to be the key provider of care in the area. The recent implementation of Agfa HealthCare's DX-D 600 direct radiography solution is the latest step toward the hospital's goals of diagnostic accuracy optimized processes, and economic viability.

Patients today are very well informed, both about medical conditions and the progress medicine is making in science and routine practice, says Johannes Weindel, CEO of Friedrichshafen Hospital. “Patients demand the best quality care – and this is what we offer,” he says. When it comes to making healthcare decisions, patients in the 21st century have more options than ever before. The medical technology in place at a hospital or clinic plays a central role for patients in making these choices.

The focus at the hospital is on ensuring the well-being of patients, at all stages in the treatment process. “They should be entering the hospital campus with a positive feeling, and leaving it again in a good state of health. We aim to provide more safety and comfort to patients, in every respect,” says Weindel.

DX-D 600 marks first installation of its type in Germany

In the context of these goals, when looking for a new DR solution, hospital administration at Friedrichshafen decided in favor of Agfa HealthCare's DX-D 600, a fully automated direct radiography solution. Installed in November 2011, it marks the first system of this type in Germany. The price-performance ratio was a major factor in the decision-making process, recalls Weindel; as was the advanced state of its technology, and the hospital's positive experience with the Agfa HealthCare support and sales team.

Benefits the hospital expects to achieve with the DX-D 600 include high image quality, improved accuracy in readings, and optimization of processes in the areas of radiology, outpatient care, surgery, and post-therapeutic care.



DX-D 600

- Higher level of automation
- Offers horizontal and vertical auto-tracking as well as an auto-positioning function which positions all components automatically for defined exam types

Agfa HealthCare's contribution

- The intuitive MUSICA² image processing software automatically analyzes the characteristics of each image and provides consistency of image quality for mobile as well as fixed acquisitions, facilitating reading.
- The fully automated DR solution increases productivity; reduced exam and waiting times result in increased satisfaction on the part of staff and patients.

Other advantages are the ability to archive and share images, and the option of transmitting images electronically to referring physicians and post-therapeutic care organizations.

Higher level of automation adds convenience to daily routine

Compared to its predecessors, the new DX-D 600 offers a higher level of automation. In addition to horizontal and vertical auto-tracking, an auto-positioning function has been integrated: thanks to stored protocols, the DX-D 600 applies the correct acquisition position for the various types of exams. At the click of a button, all components are positioned automatically. Horizontal and vertical tracking supports technologists by maintaining the focus-detector geometry despite movements of the table or wall stand.

Further options include Full Leg/Full Spine with automatic image stitching. The intuitive MUSICA² image processing software automatically analyzes the characteristics of each image and ensures consistency of image quality for mobile as well as fixed acquisitions. This characteristic, according to Head Technologist Gerhard Blauert, is offered only by Agfa HealthCare, and significantly enhances reading for radiologists.

Full support during installation

During the installation phase, staff at the hospital experienced full support from Agfa HealthCare, says Weindel. "From the beginning of the project until operation started, we received great support from Agfa HealthCare, including all questions and interfaces concerning hardware, software licensing, and more."

Did you know ...

- The hospital was inaugurated in 1892 under the name of “Karl Olga Krankenhaus”. At the time, Friedrichshafen had 3,500 inhabitants. Today, approximately 60,000 people live here.
- Friedrichshafen used to be a hub for dirigible construction. Even today, companies with roots in that industry are the largest employers in the region.



“With a total of 400 full leg and 5,000 thorax acquisitions annually, the fully digital solution will act as our workhorse for routine exams,” says Blauert. The technologists have adapted their workflows; now they define the required parameters and the suitable detector before each acquisition. Inserting and transporting cassettes is a thing of the past, and there is no longer any prolonged waiting time for image read-out. After 10 to 15 seconds, the preliminary image is available for a quality check. Image quality, says Blauert, is higher in comparison with existing cassette-based systems.

One of the key benefits is the added convenience for technologists, reports Blauert. Images are immediately available for processing or reading, and there are no unnecessary waiting times for staff or patients. Re-acquisitions due to any questionable image quality are no longer necessary. After the adaptation of processes, the solution

has been embraced by the technologists; added time for interaction with patients, longer intervals between exams, and reduced stress are welcome improvements. There is also the potential to increase the number of exams performed, says Blauert.

Needle-based detector plates for consistent quality

A next step for management at Friedrichshafen will be to replace remaining plates with the most advanced needle-based detectors from Agfa HealthCare. “This will help us achieve consistent quality of legacy analog systems and images in comparison with the images from this fully digital solution,” says Weindel. “There is a significant benefit from this also for referring physicians and post-therapeutic care organizations: they will no longer receive images of differing quality from an individual hospital or radiology department.” •

* Not available in Canada and the United States.

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