



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate publication

Picture available at: http://www.shc.ca/rp/esi_technologies/chu_ste_justine/

Christie Group, ESI Technologies, and Network Appliance invest in the installation of one of the top imaging archive systems in Canada at Sainte-Justine UHC

Montréal, August 9, 2006 – Within the context of a project to renovate the storage architecture and PACS application at Sainte-Justine UHC, the Christie Group, which specializes in medical imaging, and its partners ESI Technologies and Network Appliance, have installed one of the largest and most advanced archiving systems in Canada. Thanks to technology that was developed by Network Appliance, this system is a virtual technological showcase that will make Sainte-Justine UHC a benchmark in terms of the storage and management of digital medical imagery. This new system makes it possible to link a number of servers in a storage network, and to integrate existing equipment.

The integration of the NAS technology, which was developed by Network Appliance, the leader in unified storage systems, and the Fuji SYNAPSE PACS (*picture archiving and communication system*), which was developed by the Christie Group, creates an open computer architecture that is organized as a network, and that permits the input, digitization, transmission, display, processing, analysis, and archiving of digital medical images originating from multiple diagnostic imaging techniques. This system has the dual advantages of reducing the number of consultations with radiologists and improving the services rendered to the public, by virtue of the fact that this technology makes it possible to move forward and to reduce the display waiting time for each of the 150,000 examinations that are carried out at the institution every year.

More medical imaging storage options

The new digital medical image management and storage system that was installed by the Christie Group, ESI, and Network Appliance makes it possible to optimize the use of the network that has been in place since 2001, to eliminate time spent on storage, and to improve access to images. As a result, all of the computer systems will benefit from this improvement, including laboratories, pharmacies, and viewing stations at Sainte-Justine UHC, because all data transfers will use the institution's current bandwidth.

This system can also be expanded indefinitely as storage needs increase, and can fulfil the legal requirements for medical file storage that must be respected by Québec hospitals in terms of special reports and examinations, including digital images.

This technological innovation means that, after long-term archiving, it now takes between 5 and 6 seconds to access and display an image that previously took between 45 and 60 seconds. This improvement reduces the complexity of the systems and eliminates several short-term storage steps.

A more powerful and more advanced system

This system offers many benefits: it is more resistant to computer attacks; it offers the option of restoring the last image saved; and it operates in a Windows environment. The Fuji SYNAPSE application, which uses the Internet Explorer browser, is the only user interface at Sainte-Justine UHC. Thanks to its integrated Web tools, Fuji SYNAPSE allows radiologists and clinicians to accomplish their tasks at any one of the institution's workstations, either inside or outside of Sainte-Justine UHC.

The capacity of the system and the flexibility of the new PACS infrastructure, which is paired with the iSCSI (Internet Small Computer System Interface) protocol, mean that it requires far less equipment for storing data than the previous archiving systems. As such, it will ensure the storage and the availability of images generated by every one of the medical departments at Sainte-Justine UHC for the next four years, including nuclear medicine, radiology, ultrasound, CAT scans, MRIs, and many others.

The new options for on-screen viewing will also make it possible to generate substantial operating savings, thanks to the simpler method of storage on hard discs rather than DVDs. This method also offers a much larger storage capacity of 12 tetrabytes (12,000 Gb), which would require a library of 1,300 DVDs or more.

By installing this new and more powerful infrastructure, ESI has met the need for specialized storage resources and storage infrastructures, and the design of an architecture that has superior storage capabilities.

About Sainte-Justine UHC

The Sainte-Justine University Hospital Centre is the largest mother-child centre in Canada. It encompasses 450 beds, accepts 19,000 admissions each year, and receives 60,000 patients at Emergency and another 200,000 at its Outpatients Clinic. Its workforce includes more than 4,000 employees. It is one of the four largest pediatric centres on the American continent. Affiliated with the Université de Montréal, the Sainte-Justine UHC is by far the largest pediatric training centre in Quebec, and is a leader in this field in Canada, welcoming approximately 4,000 students per year. The Sainte-Justine UHC and its research centre boast a very impressive international reputation. The Sainte-Justine UHC will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2007.

About Christie Group Ltd.

Christie Group was founded in Montréal in 1954, initially specializing in the distribution of films and premixed chemical development solutions. Today, Christie is the only wholly Canadian owned distributor of medical imaging equipment and systems, and is the exclusive Canadian distributor of products for Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd., Hologic Inc. (including Lorad brand cancer screening products), and Shimadzu Medical Systems. Christie offers an extensive line of top-quality digital and conventional radiology equipment that have been proven in clinical environments. Its products range from medical imaging and chemical solutions to advanced acquisition and management systems that can transform absolutely any medical imagery service into a fully digital environment. To learn more about Christie Group Ltd., please visit www.christiegrp.com.

About Network Appliance

Network Appliance is a world leader in unified storage solutions for today's data-intensive enterprise. Since its inception in 1992, Network Appliance has delivered technology, product, and partner firsts that simplify data management. Information about Network Appliance™ solutions and services is available at www.netapp.com.

About ESI Technologies

ESI Technologies specializes in the development and profitable management of high-performance, flexible, and secure technological infrastructures that meet each client's specific business goals. It offers consulting services and implements a wide range of solutions to ensure the security, availability, and performance of critical data, applications, and networks. It also deploys Web and Windows applications in Microsoft.NET environments. Through its proprietary Windows application **ACTION**, ESI also offers an integrated suite of flexible, user-friendly, and scalable business solutions. ESI Technologies is based in Montréal, with offices in Québec City and Toronto. For more information concerning ESI Technologies, please visit www.esitechnologies.com.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jean-Marc Simard
SHC Public Relations
514-287-9811, extension 15
j.m.simard@shc.ca