

New scanners help examinations at Royal Bolton Hospital

Although barcode readers have become a common sight in virtually all spheres of work, they need to be both reliable and accurate if they are to be truly effective. Consequently, when the Radiology Department of the Royal Bolton Hospital started experiencing difficulties with its scanning system, it began to explore more reliable alternatives. The Department eventually opted for IMAGETEAM™ 3800 linear imagers supplied by Spirit Data Capture Limited.



The Royal Bolton Hospital is part of the Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust. The Trust has a workforce of over 3,500 who serve the town's population of some 270,000 people, as well as some of the surrounding areas. The Royal Bolton Hospital is a district general hospital with over 760 beds and 37 daycase or endoscopy beds. Its services range from Maternity through to Accident and Emergency, surgery and rehabilitation.

The hospital's Radiology Department has been using barcode readers for some years. However, its existing scanners were proving to be unreliable, and there was no provision for breakdown support. The Department therefore started to look for a more effective solution. ▶

Case Study

Superintendent Radiographer, Alan Metcalfe, explains: "We use barcodes to identify the documents that accompany the individual examinations that are carried out by the Department. We needed to find some new barcode readers that would be reliable, robust and accurate."

The hospital received a call from Spirit Data Capture Limited, which specialises in providing independent advice about a wide range of data capture solutions. The company offered to help the Radiology Department in its search for suitable scanners. Spirit subsequently recommended IMAGETEAM™ 3800 linear imagers, developed and manufactured by Hand Held Products.

The IT3800 is one of Hand Held Products' most successful models. It uses sophisticated imaging technology, and boasts very high levels of performance. The imager is extremely versatile and has also won an enviable reputation for its reliability, with very few recorded failures or returns. Since the IT3800 was first developed, it has become very popular and is used by a diverse range of organisations.

The Radiology Department purchased ten of the IT3800 linear imagers. "We need barcode readers because if the examination details are entered manually,

"The new devices are much faster at inputting the data than our previous barcode readers. They are competitively priced and perhaps even more importantly, the Department personnel who are using them are extremely happy with them."

Alan Metcalfe
Superintendent Radiographer

this could result in errors," says Alan Metcalfe. "This risk is eliminated by the linear imagers provided by Spirit, as they are very accurate, very robust and efficient."

The new scanners are proving much more effective than the previous system. Alan Metcalfe remarks: "The new devices are much faster at inputting the data than our previous barcode readers. However, despite the power and performance of the new scanners, they are competitively priced. Perhaps even more importantly, the Department personnel who are using them are extremely happy with them."