SONY

Visilion helps hospitals run more smoothly

Dräger Medical applies the Visilion real-time location system (RTLS) from Sony to save staff time while optimising equipment usage and process flows

In a large hospital building with departments spread across several floors, staff can't always find the equipment or people they need at the moment they need them. ECG machines, infusion pumps and even hospital beds are constantly being moved around. Studies show that staff spend up to 20% of their working time looking for the equipment, patients and colleagues. This has a severe impact on hospital efficiency and ultimately, on patient care.

What's more, equipment that cannot be located cannot be inspected or serviced, which means it is unavailable for use even once found. Hospitals also sometimes lose track of people. Patients wander around between departments. Staff are needed urgently, but cannot be found.

In an effort to help solve these problems, Sony is cooperating with the international medical and safety technology company, Dräger, and finetuning its real time location system (RTLS) Visilion for healthcare.

Meeting the challenges together

Dräger's Marketing Manager, Jannes Von Zech, explains, "We didn't want to simply buy an off-the-shelf product. We wanted to develop and improve an existing solution to address our customers' specific needs. And we were looking for a partner that would be willing to take full advantage of our expertise in the hospital market and use feedback from us and our customers to develop their offer."

"The Visilion team at Sony were really open to working this way, and together, we started adapting Visilion for use in hospitals across Europe. In Sony, we know we have a reliable partner with an excellent track record in connectivity and technical innovation."

Saving time and minimising redundancy

Visilion provides a constantly updated picture of what and who is where in the hospital. "That was the appeal for us," says Jannes. "Visilion cuts search times since staff can locate equipment and people instantly on a digital map."

However, the data hospitals can get from Visilion goes much further than mere location tracking. "Medical devices need inspections and servicing. If they drift out of the programme because they cannot be found, they may no longer be usable. This is a serious waste of resources," explains Jannes. "Another type of waste is equipment redundancy. With Visilion, purchasing departments have a clear picture of what is being used, where and how often. Armed with this information, they can invest in the equipment that's really needed, and not waste money on items that are rarely used or that can be comfortably shared across multiple departments."

Streamline patient flows

"Of course, hospitals are about more than equipment," observes Jannes. "Visilion can also play a big part in streamlining patient flows. Emergency departments are a good example. Things are happening very quickly, and patients can take many different routes between rooms and specialists. With Visilion, medical staff remain constantly updated on where their patients are. The system also visualises processes in order to help things run more smoothly."

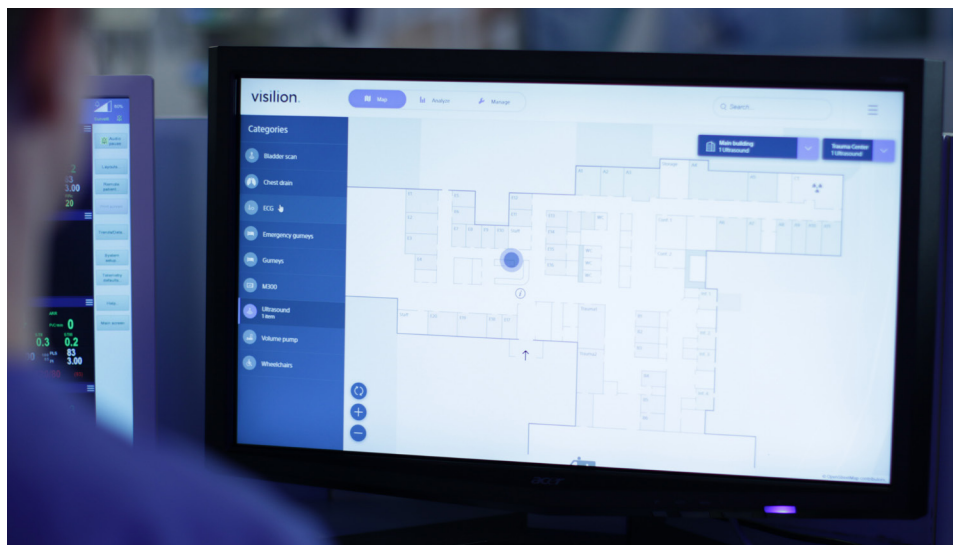*"You get a clear picture of what is being used, where and how often..."*
Dräger Marketing Manager, Jannes von Zech

Real-time updates across multiple sites

Hospital managers are often faced with the challenge of monitoring what's going on around their building or even across multiple sites. "With Visilion, they get a clear and complete picture - one that's constantly updated in real time," says Jannes. "The system is both flexible and scalable and can be easily adapted to different applications, and it copes equally well whether our customer has a single building or many."

Plug & play

"The feedback we're getting from users is that Visilion is very easy to work with. Staff don't need any training to get up and running so they can start enjoying the benefits immediately. The digital map can be viewed on a PC, tablet or mobile phone. Additionally, dedicated, wall-mounted touch screens can be installed in strategic locations like corridors, enabling instant access at all times. In emergency situations, this is essential because every second counts," says Jannes.

Plans for the future

Dräger regards Visilion as a valuable addition to its portfolio. "Visilion is an excellent fit for our digitalisation strategy," comments Jannes. "We offer our customers not only products but also customised solutions and extensive services and Visilion is a key part of this. In the future, we will be creating different interfaces to suit different customers and achieve complete integration with their existing operations. Ultimately, it is all about supporting hospitals to advance clinical outcomes, manage costs, enhance the patient experience and ensure staff satisfaction."

Visilion: key benefits

Visilion from Sony is a powerful tool for optimising resource allocation in healthcare:
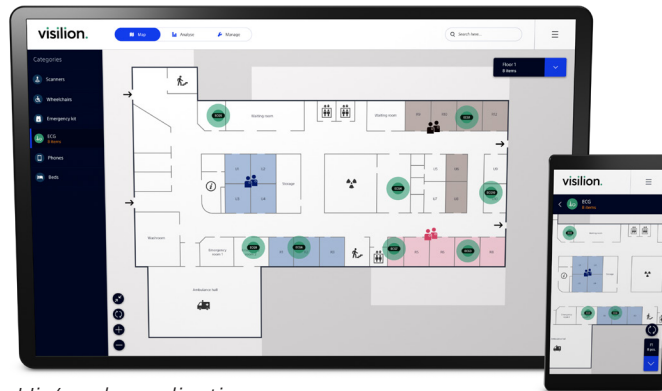
- Easy to tag assets and people
- Intuitive solution, no training required
- Frees up staff time to improve patient care
- Optimises asset flows
- Designed for indoor positioning
- Supports purchasing decisions

In any healthcare facility, a large number of items needs to be located quickly in order to provide the best quality care.

About Dräger Medical

Dräger is an international leader in medical and safety technology geared to protecting, supporting and saving people's lives. Dräger works with hospitals, fire departments, the emergency services, authorities, mining and across industries around the world. Founded in 1889 and based in Lübeck, Germany, Dräger has over 14,000 employees globally and a presence in more than 190 countries.

Ui / web application

Tags   *Observer*

> *"Visilion is quick and easy to install and integrate..."*
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> *Dräger Marketing Manager, Jannes von Zech*

About Visilion from Sony

Visilion for healthcare is a powerful tool for optimising resource allocation in healthcare. It frees up time spent searching for equipment, patients and colleagues, allowing it to be devoted to care instead. As a complete, user-friendly real-time location system (RTLS), it locates and tracks equipment, and shows where it is on a digital map (e.g. on a PC, tablet or smartphone).

Users simply fit small BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy) tags to the equipment they want to track. The tracker signals are picked up by observers, which are plugged into regular power sockets. These observers transform signals into positioning data that is uploaded to the cloud, using the hospital's existing wi-fi infrastructure.

Visilion then maps the position of people and equipment. By showing where equipment is kept and used, the system helps hospitals position it more conveniently. The data and analytics generated over time help hospitals optimise asset usage and process flows. Addressing the stated needs of hospital and IT managers, Visilion has been developed and trialled in cooperation with some of Scandinavia's leading hospitals and clinics.

Find out more about Visilion:

iot.sonynetworkcom.com/visilion

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