

## 100 “Most Wired” Hospitals Report Better Outcomes

Technology does make a difference in both the patient experience and the quality of care, according to recently-published results of *Hospitals & Health Networks’* “Most Wired Survey and Benchmarking Study.” The study is the basis of the well-known “100 Most Wired” hospitals list, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2008.

The survey asks hospitals to report on how they use IT to address five key areas: safety and quality, customer service, business processes, workforce, and public health and safety. For the fifth year running, the analysis shows that the 100 “most wired” have better outcomes on a variety of quality and safety metrics, including risk-adjusted mortality rates.

“Health IT has shown incredible promise in helping us improve the quality and safety of the care hospitals deliver every day,” says Rich Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the American Hospital

Association. “The results of the ‘most wired’ survey confirm that today’s patient also understands the benefits of IT in improving care and improving the overall hospital experience.”

Among key findings of the survey:

- Adoption of medication safety technologies is slow.

Of the 556 hospitals and health systems surveyed, less than 5% have effectively deployed this technology.

- The 100 “most wired” consistently outspent other hospitals on IT in both operating and capital budgets.

- This year, the “most wired” estimated that their IT operating budgets would be nearly 1.5 times as much as the “least wired,” the 100 organizations that scored lowest on the survey.

For more information about this survey, including the “25 Most Wireless” facilities, visit [www.hhnmag.com/2008MW](http://www.hhnmag.com/2008MW). ■



**Stephens International  
Recruiting Inc.**

*“Connecting Quality People, Quality Service”*

**We specialize in recruitment and placement services for clinical engineering positions nationwide, to include Military/OEM-trained professionals, with specific emphasis on the following positions:**

- Biomedical Equipment Technicians (BMETs)
- Radiology/Imaging/Nuclear Technicians & Managers
- Equipment Field Service Technicians
- Directors/Managers/Executives for Above Specialties

**We provide alternative staffing solutions with our Temp-to-Perm or Temporary/Contract Biomedical Staffing Services.**

**HEALTH CARE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT SERVICES**

**Contact:** Tim Hopkins or Cindy Stephens  
**Toll-free:** (888) 785-2638 (BMET); **Direct:** (870) 431-5485  
**E-mail:** [info@BMETS-USA.com](mailto:info@BMETS-USA.com)  
**[www.BMETS-USA.com](http://www.BMETS-USA.com)**

## FDA Awards up to \$2.5 Billion to Modernize IT

**F**DA has selected 10 contractors to receive up to a total of \$2.5 billion for information technology (IT) and data center management services over the next 10 years. The contract is the cornerstone of FDA's Information Technology for the 21st Century (ICT21) bioinformatics initiative, an extensive IT modernization program encompassing data management, data warehousing, IT infrastructure, and IT security.

"This contract sets the stage for FDA to have IT to acquire, analyze, and act on data critical for import protection, food protection, and medical product safety plans," says Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD, commissioner of FDA.

The contracts were awarded to: Buccaneer, of Warrenton, VA; Computer Sciences Corporation, of Rockville, MD; Dynanet, of Elkridge, MD; Electronic Data Systems, of Herndon, VA; General Dynamics, of Fairfax, VA; Human Touch, of McLean, VA; IDL-Pragmatics, of Vienna, VA; Interactive Technology Solutions, of Silver Spring, MD; Telesis, of Rockville, MD; and Unisys, of Reston, VA.

The 10 contractors will compete with each other for data information technology task orders through this contract.

FDA has already awarded three task orders under the new contract for the design and migration of all systems

applications to two new data centers, which will be the cornerstone of the FDA IT infrastructure and bioinformatics modernization for the next decade. The three task orders were awarded to:

- IT Solutions (Task Order 1—funded initially at \$3,000,000) provides the design and implementation as well as migration of existing FDA applications to the newly configured White Oak Data Center, which will support all FDA test and development applications.
- Buccaneer (Task Order 2—funded initially at \$3,000,000) provides the operations and maintenance of the White Oak Data Center.
- Electronic Data Systems (Task Order 3—funded initially at \$12,000,000) provides the design, implementation, migration and operations and maintenance of existing FDA applications to a Contractor Owned Contractor Operated hosted data center for FDA production operations.

All FDA software applications and hosting operations will transition to the new data centers over a two-year period. The resulting enhanced computing power and greater responsiveness will provide FDA with the tools it needs to ensure that all products reaching the American public are safer and more effective. ■

## New Standard Focuses on Information Security Management

**A** newly published standard from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) helps to safeguard the confidentiality of personal health information by providing guidelines to healthcare professionals for the management of health information security. ISO 27799:2008, *Health informatics—Information security management in health using ISO/IEC 27002*, is applicable to many different types of records and ways of storing and transmitting information, offering a set of detailed controls for healthcare organizations.

This new standard builds upon the principles set forth in ISO/IEC 27002:2005, *Information technology—Security techniques—Code of practice for informa-*



*tion security management.* Developed jointly by ISO and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the new standard ISO/IEC 27002:2005 provides guidelines for organizations from any industry sector to initiate, implement, maintain, and improve information security management practices.

ISO Technical Committee (TC) 215, Health informatics, led the development of ISO 27799:2008. The United States has held the secretariat of this committee since its inception, and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) has performed the secretariat duties since 2003. For more information or to purchase the standard, visit [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org). ■