



optimize your rosters...optimize your costs

POWERtec adds new bank management facilities to *Optimize*.

Optimize now has the ability to automatically highlight staffing gaps and use self-service or web-based facilities to fill vacant shifts avoiding the use of traditional "bank" systems.

London, 9th February, 2009 - **POWERtec Systems & Consultancy Ltd** has unveiled a revolutionary new approach to the management of temporary nursing staff in the NHS. Every year the NHS spends approximately £1bn, or 10% of all nursing pay, in employing agency staff to fill vacant shifts*.

Until now this has typically been managed by individual wards sending their requirements to a team of "bank" coordinators, who match up the understaffed shift with the availability of staff registered on their books. A typical acute hospital might have to fill 700 shifts per week in this way, so the administrative burden is immense. It is a vastly time-consuming, costly and unwieldy process.

POWERtec's solution to this problem is to further enhance their **Optimize** workforce management system.

As rosters are prepared through **Optimize**, the gaps are immediately identified and shift vacancies publicised using its self service module. Staff can then see what the requirements are and volunteer for shifts, either through self service or over the web. SMS text messaging is used to alert nurses outside the Trust to requirements that may be of interest.

This approach is revolutionary not just in its use of text messaging and the web, but above all in the way it eliminates the distinction between the "rostering" system and the "bank" system. Up until now, efforts to streamline the management of temporary staff have focussed on linking these two together. **Optimize** simply encompasses them in one unified system.

Tony Ive, Managing Director of POWERtec said: "Traditional approaches to the problem have duplicated the task of roster management by starting from the assumption that rostering permanent staff should be a separate exercise from rostering temporary staff. This made sense when temporary staff worked flexibly but permanent staff did not. In the modern NHS flexible working is available to everyone, so it no longer makes sense to carry the overhead of a separate bank administration system. By eliminating it Trusts can cut costs, improve their success at filling gaps in the roster, and stop irritating people by phoning them up about shifts they cannot do."

*(Source: National Audit Office Report July 2006).



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About Optimize & POWERtec:

Optimize was developed by **POWERtec** to address the workforce management challenges facing NHS Trusts.

Optimize offers a sophisticated workforce management solution that is supported by **POWERtec**'s twenty-year experience in delivering computerised HR solutions to the NHS. **Optimize** enables staff to take personal control of their working lives by utilising its self-service functions. Self rostering has the knock-on effect of reducing the workload on roster managers, reducing the stress and the time taken to produce effective and equitable rosters. In addition, automatic timesheets to payroll reduces their non-clinical workload and improves payroll accuracy. All managers have real-time access to critical information about staff utilisation, enabling them to make strategic decisions about the workforce in full knowledge of the facts.

Since its initial rollout to the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust's 4,500 staff, **Optimize** has been a huge success. It has delivered significant benefits to patients, staff and management and enabled the Trust to save in excess of £1m in the first six months of operation. A project to extend its use to all medical staff is now underway and even greater savings are anticipated in the future.

Cost savings are generated by maximizing the use of available Trust resources and reducing the use of bank and agency staff by at least 50%. Generally, Trusts can achieve a 5% saving on nursing staff costs by using **Optimize**. In a typical NHS Trust, this will amount to savings of approximately £3m per year.

For more information about **POWERtec** please visit www.optimize-roster.co.uk.

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