



optimize your rosters...optimize your costs

Powertec's Optimize e-rostering software Wins *Health Business* Healthcare IT award December 2008

**Optimize implementation at The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust recognized by
the Health Business Awards 2008**

London, 22 December, 2008 - POWERtec, today announced that its e-rostering system - **Optimize**, developed in partnership with The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, has won the Healthcare IT Award 2008 at the Health Business Magazine Awards December 2008 event. This award recognises "...a ground breaking IT project that demonstrates clear cost benefits to the wider NHS."

The judges said: "By improving the way NHS employees are managed through better rostering, greater value can be released from all resources so that better care is provided to patients. The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust's work in this area wins the 2008 Healthcare IT Award by demonstrating cost savings through the roll out of a well thought out system, designed in partnership with a private sector supplier." In the current economic climate, this is an incredible success story. **Optimize**, and solutions like it, will be critical in meeting the targets set for NHS Trusts in the operating framework for the NHS in England 2009/10.

Optimize was developed by POWERtec to address the workforce management challenges faced by The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust in meeting the need for more flexible working practices required by Improving Working Lives. It was also essential for Optimize to be fully interfaced with the Electronic Staff Record System (ESR), which did not address highly complex staff scheduling, a problem facing every NHS Trust.

Optimize offers a sophisticated e-rostering 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 half of the Trust's 4,500 staff, **Optimize** has been an huge success. It has delivered significant benefits to patients, staff and management and has enabled Royal Berkshire 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. In a typical NHS Trust, this will amount to savings of at least £1m per year, and in many cases this will be significantly higher.

Tony Ive, Managing Director of Powertec said: "We are delighted that The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust has won this accolade from Health Business. It demonstrates that our e-rostering solution saves healthcare organisations sizeable parts of their budgets, by improving

the flexibility and quality of the working lives of their staff and at the same time improving patient care. We always work closely with our healthcare clients to maximise their efficiency. We are proud of the collaboration with The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust which has produced solid improvements in the work/life balance of their staff, enabled the Trust to achieve its targets, and saved valuable NHS resources. **Optimize** can provide similar benefits and cost-savings to other NHS organisations.”

Clare Edmondson, Director of Workforce Development and HR, The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust said: "Undoubtedly, Optimize-Roster has delivered great benefits to us at The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, not only in terms of benefits to patients, to staff and to our ward managers, but also in terms of our financial efficiency. This year alone, Optimize has paid for itself, so the major benefit for us has certainly been in cost savings. This has been the single biggest item in our cost efficiency plan this year. Optimize has helped us to deliver in excess of £1 million saving on our pay bill, largely in nursing costs, and bearing in mind we only started half way through the year, Optimize has undoubtedly exceeded our expectations. It's our intention to roll Optimize out across the whole Trust, so it will be a population of around 4,500 staff and the next major grouping that we'll roll it out to will be our doctors.”

About POWERtec:

Optimize is developed by POWERtec, a company formed in 1988 and still run by its original founders. POWERtec specialise in people-related systems and consultancy. It's '**Storm**' HR system has been implemented by a range of medium to large organisations including 30 NHS Trusts and a major hospital in Dublin.

About The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust:

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust became an [NHS Foundation Trust](#) on 1 June 2006. It was the first Foundation Trust in the South Central Strategic Health Authority which covers Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It is one of Reading's biggest employers and one of the largest general hospital trusts in the NHS. The Trust provides acute medical and surgical services to Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire and specialist services to a wider population. The Trust has accumulated a number of achievements and awards in recent years. It has appeared in the Top 10 for A&E waiting times, consistently recording waits of less than four hours; the Healthcare Commission placed it in the top 9% of Trusts; and it has achieved Working Lives Practice Plus, an accolade for employers.

For more information about The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust please visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk.

For more information about Powertec please visit www.Optimize-roster.co.uk .

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