Luxembourg Hosts 15th IHE-Europe 2015 Connectathon and First IHE International Conformity Assessment.

Press Release

From April 20 – 24 2015, Luxembourg will be hosting the IHE-Europe Connectathon, for the first time in its 15 year history. It will also be the first time that the Connectathon has, running in parallel (22-24 April), the IHE International Conformity Assessment Program undertaken by an established ISO17025 accredited testing laboratory – Kereval. Conformity Assessment delivers additional testing rigour and increased confidence of compliance to those procuring (http://ihe-europe.net/ihe-services/conformity-assessment).

The IHE Connectathon is a "test marathon" that provides all companies, large and small, the opportunity to test their products in a structured environment across a variety of domains including Radiology, Cardiology, Pathology, Patient Care Devices, Patient Care Coordination, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Dental and crucially IT Infrastructure, along with those of their peer vendors. Real world clinical scenarios following IHE Integration Profile specifications are used.

Almost 80 companies will join the Connectathon testing this year, bringing together more than 100 systems and over 300 participants for a full week of intensive testing. This increase clearly shows how important interoperability is across the healthcare spectrum in Europe.

"Once again we have a number of new SMEs attending and welcome back a number of the traditional healthcare companies that have decided to return this year, along with those regulars that are seemingly always present. I expect a particularly successful, hard-working, but rewarding, week for all those involved", said Eric Poiseau, IHE-Europe's Technical Coordinator of the Connectathon testing. "I would particularly like to thank our volunteer Monitors, who have again surpassed themselves to be ready to judge test results. Without their presence it would be a very different event and one severely lacking their expertise", he added.

Companies attending, that successfully pass their testing requirements, will be recorded on the IHE International Connectathon Results data base (http://connectathon-results.ihe.net), which is particularly important both to vendors and to the buying community across Europe, as part of their decision making process. For systems that are commercially released the vendor will produce an IHE Integration Statement available in the IHE Product Registry (http://product-registry.ihe.net).

All vendors, new, returning and regular, are encouraged to look at the recently updated IHE-Europe White Paper (http://www.ihe-europe.net/news-and-press/publications). It gives a considerable amount of background information about the Connectathon, it is also invaluable content when considering attendance at next year's IHE-Europe Connectathon, which will take place in Bochum, Germany, April 11-15, 2016, which will also feature the 2016 IHE International Conformity Assessment Program.

2015 also sees the Med-e-Tel International eHealth, Telemedicine and Health ICT Forum, running 22-24 April inclusive, in rooms adjacent to the Connectathon. It will include a special IHE Symposium – Interoperability in Practice for eHealth and mHealth – a half day event that will be addressed initially by the Luxembourg Prime Minister and Minister of Health, culminating in a guided visit to the Connectathon floor. For further IHE Symposium details go to http://ihe-europe.net/events/ihe-symposium-2015 and to register to join a VIP Connectathon Tour go to http://connectathon.ihe-europe.net/luxembourg-2015/side-events.

For more information on IHE-Europe Connectathon 2015 go to http://connectathon.ihe-europe.net

For more information on IHE-Services and their testing services use contact@ihe-services.net

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About IHE-Services
IHE-Services is the operational unit of IHE-Europe dedicated to the fulfilment of its mission. It is a professional testing team supporting IHE-Europe's members and beneficiaries that want to build trust in the deployment of IHE Profiles in their solutions and projects. Services provided are the development of customised validation and conformance test tools, organisation of test sessions and demonstrations, training and consultancy on implementation of the IHE Profiles in beneficiary's projects / programs. Beneficiaries are national or regional e-health projects, IT users in hospitals or vendors developing new products. IHE-Services offers a unique suite of tools and services used during the Connectathons worldwide.

About IHE-Europe
The mission of IHE-Europe is to improve patient care by advancing the interoperability of healthcare IT systems and the appropriate sharing of relevant information. Towards that end, IHE-Europe conducts education, testing, demonstrations and other activities promoting the deployment within Europe of systems compliant with the IHE Technical Frameworks developed by IHE International. IHE-Europe also recruits healthcare professionals and solution developers to participate in the development of these specifications and promote their appropriate use in Europe. IHE-Europe interacts with relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations in Europe. It also maintains close contacts with similar initiatives around the world.

About IHE-Luxembourg
The IHE-Luxembourg activities are currently driven by Agence eSanté, Luxembourg's national eHealth agency. Established in the form of an Economic Interest Group and truly operational since September 2012, the agency's two main missions defined by law are the development and implementation of a national eHealth services platform for the exchange and sharing of medical data; and a national strategy to promote and enhance interoperability between healthcare information management systems.

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