

IHE-Europe Connectathon 2015 – It’s Luxembourg! **Press Release**

October 8, 2014 – IHE-Europe is delighted to announce that the city of Luxembourg will host the fifteenth annual Connectathon from 20th to 24th April 2015. Following hot on the heels of the successful Vienna, Austria Connectathon in April 2014, where the “test marathon” saw 70 plus companies testing over 100 systems with some 300 technicians, developers and marketers present, Luxembourg promises to be a very special venue for the five days of interoperability testing.

Luxembourg is at the very center of the European Union, not only geographically but also symbolically as the seat of the European Court of Justice, the Secretariat of the European Parliament, the European Investment Bank and Investment Fund. Furthermore, its governmental programme has set priority on two of Europe’s Digital agenda items - the development of ICT and of eHealth technologies. This makes Luxembourg the ideal location for the centerpiece of the IHE-Europe calendar - the 2015 Connectathon.

This annual IHE Connectathon is an invitation to **all** companies, large and small, to test their own products, 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 peers.

“The successes of the last three years’ events in Bern, Istanbul and Vienna will present the organising Committee with a lot of hard work, but Daisy Smet - Chair of the Committee said “We look forward to welcoming vendors to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at what is fast becoming a key momentum for system interoperability, which has become an imperative for all vendors to be able to demonstrate, by attending this annual event and using the offerings of IHE-Services to enable Conformity Testing of their software”.

IHE-Europe encourages companies to carefully consider their attendance at this Connectathon, stressing that companies should plan to attend every year, not just when they may have changed or developed new systems themselves. “There are always new profiles, new vendors entering the market place, the need to undertake conformance test messages plus the increasing need to show up to date testing to the procurement fraternity and there is the ever increasing level of competition in the e-health market place, to mention just a few of the reasons for attending annually”, said Cor Loef – General Manager of IHE-Services, part of IHE-Europe, and one of the principle Connectathon leads.

One vendor at the 2014 Connectathon said, “We have customers in many countries and find it essential to work closely with our partners in all countries to meet their needs. IHE having a structured approach reassures customers that our solutions have been thoroughly tested and we find it brings big dividends by all but eliminating after sales issues as far as interoperability is concerned”. Another company attending for the first time said, “We were a little apprehensive at first because as a small company it was a large resource commitment for us but on the first day we became aware of the benefits through working with a number of large vendors and linking our products to theirs in such an environment. It became obvious that having already undertaken the task upfront, this would bring us the benefits in terms of savings when we hook up in customer sites. This will help drive our sales efforts and enable us to meet our customer’s needs more readily and professionally”.

The last years in particular have seen national, regional and hospital tender procedures demand current independent demonstrations of IHE Profile implementation competence by vendors and an increasing number of buyers are turning to the IHE Product Registry (<http://product-registry.ihe.net>) and Connectathon results pages (<http://connectathon-results.ihe.net>) which list Connectathon results, as part of their decision making process.

For more information on IHE-Europe Connectathon 2015 go to <http://connectathon.ihe-europe.net>.
Registration opens December 1st 2014: closes 15th January 2015.

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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.