

Silent Cubes Success Story

Project: Schwarzach Hospital
Solution: AGFA IMPAX

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Christian Mühlthaler, IT Manager, Schwarzach Hospital

We secure Terabytes.

the Munich company prevailed over four other well-known vendors and was awarded the contract. “We were very pleasantly surprised to receive such an innovative and yet user-friendly archiving system at such a low price. Even the system vendor technicians we consulted prior to making our purchase decision, who painstakingly put the solution through all its paces, immediately steered us to the FAST LTA system. We have never regretted our decision. From Day One, the solution and the entire project went off without a hitch, thanks to the professional and friendly FAST LTA team,” beams Christian Mühlthaler, IT Manager for Schwarzach Hospital on the hospital’s decision.

The requirements placed on the new archiving system were very high. It had to be able to guarantee the hospital’s medical data would be stored for up to 30 years without change. Also important was for the solution to be readily scalable and expandable and be suitable as a central memory for different applications. It needed to be able to handle an annual data growth rate trend of 2 TB – and steadily rising – and still ensure acceptable access times to the long-term memory. The hospital also expected easy migration of its data in addition to redundant data management – a distributed backup of data at multiple sites so that the hospital’s data would also be fully protected against any conceivable misfortunes such as fire or water damage. The FAST LTA storage system fulfilled all these requirements and went on to distinguish itself even further with its excellent price/performance ratio.

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System phase-in and rollout

Installation of the FAST LTA hard disk storage solution began in late 2008 with the LTA system. After migrating the legacy data (6TB) from the DVD jukebox to the new storage system, live operation then followed. In light of a previous service contract set to expire, AGFA IMPAX was implemented at the same time as new PACS system. The second step of the project then followed in mid-2009 with the data migration to the LTA follow-up system, FAST LTA’s ultra-secure and energy-saving Silent Cubes, and by September of that same year, the entire long-term archiving system was on-line. The hospital purchased a total of four modular storage cubes. On-site installation was carried out by a team of FAST LTA technicians; the solution was implemented in just a few hours. “The team could not have been better prepared, they clarified all the important questions long in advance, and they all knew exactly what each one had to do. The teamwork between our IT staff and that from FAST LTA ran like clockwork – not one of the approximately 200 doctors and other staff users who access data here even realized the change-over was actually underway. And since the system is so user-intuitive and low maintenance, absolutely no training was even necessary. The whole process could not have run any smoother,” relates IT Manager Mühlthaler on the ease of implementation. Using the Silent Cubes solution has meanwhile tripled the hospital’s archiving speed. FAST LTA has also announced further performance increases soon to come.

While the primary storage task for the Silent Cubes is the hospital’s radiology data, the system has also reformed the storing of all other patient data. All this information, previously tracked on paper, is gradually being scanned and now likewise stored in digital form on the storage cubes. Once completed, more than 1200 staff members will then be able to access all the archived data. The hospital signed a 24/7 support and service contract with FAST LTA and thus enjoys a full “All-Round/No-Worry” support/service package.