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The Netherlands - Vendors Team Up to Improve Interoperability of Radiology IT Systems

November saw the second Dutch eRadiology test event take place at St. Antonius Hospital in Utrecht. The objective was to bring together pre-competitive vendors to iron out any integration problems with IT systems and to foster interoperability between them. The specificity of the Dutch system is the provision of a personal unique service number for citizens, which is sent in messages. The results demonstrated that radiological examinations can be sent from one digital system to another in a vendor-independent way. The St. Anthony Hospital is in favour of increasing interoperability in healthcare through the consistent application of open standards and open source software. The Dutch eRadiology test event is an interoperability test where various health IT systems are connected together and tested on their interoperability. For vendors, it is an efficient way of testing, since any deficiencies are quickly identified and can be solved. The advantage for users is that interoperability is demonstrated in advance and thus setting up and managing system integration becomes easier.

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