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Frost & Sullivan white paper highlights Agfa’s DR 800, “combining radiography and fluoroscopy in an elegant design”

Interviews with radiology department heads illustrate how the DR 800 Hybrid DR System supports expanded imaging operations, clinical care, productivity, patient satisfaction and dose reduction.

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- The DR 800 multi-purpose digital radiography system delivers radiography, fluoroscopy and advanced clinical applications in a single investment.
- The innovative solution helps radiology meet the growing demand for diagnostic imaging studies while finding efficiencies in workflows and capital investments.
- The DR 800 won Frost & Sullivan’s 2019 Global New Product Innovation Award.

The research and consulting firm Frost & Sullivan White Paper ‘Leveraging the Benefits of Multi-Functional Radiology Imaging Technology’ (the “Report”) states that, “*The growing demand for diagnostic imaging studies, including radiography, has put a strain on hospitals to find efficiencies in their workflows and capital investments.*”. Further, the DR 800 “*meets this demand in a novel way by combining radiography and fluoroscopy capabilities into a single system to provide benefits to clinicians, patients, and administration.*”

Intelligent genrad/fluoroscopy imaging

For its white paper, Frost & Sullivan interviewed heads of radiology departments working with the Agfa DR 800, on both sides of the Atlantic. They revealed their perspectives on how the multi-purpose solution helps them to remain competitive and meet the needs of the growing populations using their services.

The versatile DR 800 can handle a full range of radiography (including static exams and tilting exams) and fluoroscopy exams (including barium studies,

arthrograms, cystograms, myelography, catheter placement, etc.), without the need for additional overhead tubes or separate wall stands. It can thus carry out the different types of imaging studies in a single room, with a single investment.

Frost & Sullivan explored several different benefits of the DR 800 with early adopter facilities of the technology across three countries:

Expanding diagnostic imaging operations

Adopting a multi-purpose solution enables the hospitals to cut back on maintenance costs for multiple rooms, while optimizing the use of space in their facilities. Several found that fluoroscopy demand is low or static, leading to under-utilization of the fluoroscopy room. With the DR 800, these hospitals can continue to offer services as needed, and then maximize room usage with genrad imaging.

- *“The DR 800 makes much better use of the room. We were overloaded with the plain film imaging, but the fluoro room was low-use. Now the room is being more efficiently used.”*

Dr. Rob Colliver, chief of radiology, Royal Bath Hospital (UK)

Improving clinical care

The DR 800 includes Dynamic MUSICA image processing software for both general radiography and moving images. Dynamic MUSICA provides extremely stable brightness and contrast for fluoroscopy, an ongoing issue for decades. The role of the MUSICA image processing was highlighted by several of the customers as being key to the image quality and dose management. *“MUSICA allows systems to deliver high image quality at the lowest reasonably achievable radiation dose,”* the report states. According to customers in the report:

- *“We see the MUSICA image quality as something that gives our physicians diagnostic confidence.”*

Winfried Brockhaus, chief radiographer, Katholisches Klinikum Nord (Germany)

- *“The DR 800 produces lovely images.”*

Rosie Freeman, director of radiology, Royal Bath Hospital (UK)

- *“The clinicians are beside themselves with the image quality.”*

Nigel Beeton, radiology services manager, West Suffolk Hospital (UK)

The dose reduction potential is also a key reason for choosing the DR 800, compared to other vendors' solutions. *"When combined with MUSICA and other features, the DR 800 was reported by customers to deliver a radiation dose 30% to 60% lower than other systems¹,"* according to the report.

Enhanced workflow and operational efficiency

The ergonomic design of the automated DR 800 contributes to faster exam times and higher staff productivity, the report found. The ease of use, accessibility and adjustment, as well as the quick image processing, are key.

- *"With no manual handling, it is all automated positioning ... exams are probably about 50% quicker. ... Before [with the legacy system] we used to have to wait 90 seconds to process the image, it takes now two to three seconds to get the image."*

Rosie Freeman, director of radiology, Royal Bath Hospital (UK)

- *"We are currently running 40% above projections in terms of patient volume but the DR 800 has been able to keep up with that. That's a statement of how good of an investment it has been for us."*

Max Grady, executive director of medical imaging, Troy Hospital (USA)

Patient and radiologist satisfaction

Designed to maximize workflow, while keeping patients and staff safe and comfortable, the DR 800 delivers quick turnaround times. The motorized table facilitates positioning for all sizes of patients across a wide range of exams, and LiveVision technology enables precise patient positioning without radiation exposure.

- *"With our older fluoro equipment, radiologists had an issue with larger patients and being able to perform the procedures such as lumbar punctures ... Even the weight limit was a barrier, and we had to turn patients away. This is no longer an issue with the DR 800."*

Elizabeth Evans, modality manager, AdventHealth (USA)

¹ Testing with board-certified radiologists has determined that Cesium Bromide (CR) and Cesium Iodide (DR) Detectors, when used with MUSICA image processing, can provide dose reductions between 50 to 60%, compared to traditional Barium Fluoro Bromide CR systems. Contact for more details.

Image quality, workflow, cost and satisfaction

The report concludes by describing how the innovative, hybrid design of the DR 800 enables radiology providers to deliver quality images, improve workflow, reduce costs and keep patients and caregivers satisfied: *“The DR 800’s ability to conduct digital radiography exams and fluoroscopy procedures, and the added ability to do tomosynthesis, make it an easy choice for radiology department directors looking to optimize their programs.”*

Frost & Sullivan 2019 Global New Product Innovation Award

In February 2019, the DR 800 received Frost & Sullivan’s 2019 award for New Product Innovation Leader in the Global Multipurpose Digital Radiography Systems Market. The award further highlights the value proposition of Agfa’s DR portfolio, which *“revolves around maximizing patient care quality and safety, while still optimizing total cost of ownership (TCO) and return on investment (ROI)”*.

About Agfa NV

Agfa NV is one of the world’s leading companies in imaging technology. Agfa NV develops, manufactures and markets analogue and digital systems for the printing industry, for the healthcare sector, and for specific industrial applications. The group has more than 150 years of imaging experience. The healthcare division delivers diagnostic imaging solutions that set standards in productivity, safety, clinical value and cost effectiveness. Agfa is headquartered in Mortsel, Belgium. The company is present in 40 countries and has agents in another 100 countries around the globe.

For more information on Agfa, please visit www.agfa.com or the [Agfa Blog](#)

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