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**Title:**

SCC Delivers First UK Healthcare Cloud

**SUMMARY (MAX 200 Characters) :**

- Mersey Care NHS Trust could achieve 15% savings on IT from cloud agreement
- SCC invests £25million in cloud services to deliver UK's first healthcare cloud
- Cloud service will free-up front line staff and improve efficiency, quality and safety

Leading IT integrator SCC has signed a landmark agreement with Mersey Care NHS Trust to deliver the UK's first healthcare cloud in a deal designed to deliver secure data centre services at significant savings as well as freeing up front line staff to concentrate on patient care.

The contract, which is set to run for five years, will see Mersey Care NHS Trusts operational data and ICT infrastructure migrate to SCC's OptimiseCloud™ platform over the next six months. The project, which is expected to bring significant savings in Mersey Care's infrastructure IT costs, will see the 15 terabytes of data currently stored on the Trust's 90 in-house servers transferred to the company's £25 million data centre from December.

"We're delighted to be unveiling an exciting project that not only signifies the creation of the very first healthcare cloud in the UK, but also signifies a major step forward in the evolution of public sector IT," said Tracy Westall, SCC's UK Public Sector Director.

"The Mersey Care agreement validates the effort and investment we have put into becoming the first British provider to earn Pan-Government accreditation for our OptimiseCloud™ platform, enabling NHS organisations to remove the headaches associated with running an efficient technology infrastructure and to focus instead on delivering the front line services to which they are dedicated."

The project is the first to emerge following the framework agreement signed earlier this summer with Informatics Merseyside which is a shared NHS IT service Hosted by Mersey Care NHS Trust, to deliver a cloud framework allowing customers in the North West to access a range of secure services without having to invest in, maintain or upgrade their own on-site data centres and servers.



Customers of Informatics Merseyside have signed up to the framework agreement, Mersey Care is the first customer to sign a call off contract and begin project initiation. The Framework contract covers a wide range of applications including patient administration services, email provision and pay-roll. Customers only pay for what they use, allowing greater flexibility and certainty around spending commitments and it is expected that IT spend could be reduced significantly with the entry into the cloud.

Alison Jordan, Head of Strategic Project and Organisational Lead for IT Mersey Care Trust, commented: "After an extensive review, the business case for moving to a Cloud-based platform was compelling, offering significant savings over the alternative options we considered. Budgetary issues are not the only factor behind the decision, as quality and security are as important to Mersey Care. The move to the cloud offers a number of benefits including a more flexible infrastructure capable of responding to the organisation's changing IT needs, freeing up the technical services IT resource to work on application developments and other service delivery projects".

SCC - which in addition to becoming the first British organisation to receive Pan-Government accreditation for its IL2 and IL3 Cloud services was successfully granted an application earlier this year for a framework agreement to provide G-Cloud services as part of the Government's drive for faster and more cost effective IT – has invested £25million in cloud services.

Tracy Westall, SCC's UK public sector director: "This partnership with NHS organisation Informatics Merseyside is a really important breakthrough in the move towards greater use of cloud services in the UK public sector. Our framework will provide secure, cost-effective IT services and solutions saving NHS organisations money and resource at a time of increasing budgetary constraint. The QIPP agenda within the NHS is all about delivering the same standard of service but more efficiently and this use of the cloud is a great example of what can be achieved. Informatics Merseyside have shown great vision in this project and there is no reason why many other parts of the public sector - including local and central government - could not achieve similar levels of service delivery at greatly reduced expenditure. Cloud computing has enormous potential to deliver real savings and this partnership is a great benchmark for others to follow."

Mark Bostock, Director, Informatics Merseyside, said: "We are really pleased to be able to take this project forward and be leading the way in the provision of healthcare IT services in the cloud. This is something we have been working towards for a long time to make sure we developed a sound business case with a robust framework contract with the preferred supplier in place as governance, compliance and patient safety are big challenges to overcome in healthcare IT.

There are huge advantages to this scheme not only in terms of potential cost savings although the business case alone here is very compelling as this means there is no need to have multiple data centres and on-site servers. Additionally, customers can scale up or down very quickly according to their needs at any one time and this means organisations can plan ahead with much greater certainty in terms of capital outlay.

If customers only want to do something on a short term basis they can as they only pay for what they use. This is a platform which provides massive flexibility and will undoubtedly see a much more efficient system."

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## Media Contacts

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## About SCC

### **About Informatics Merseyside**

Informatics Merseyside is an NHS shared service providing Information Management and Technology services to the Local Health Economy.

Hosted by Mersey Care NHS Trust, our Customers include:

- Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Trust
- Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group
- Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust
- Mersey Care NHS Trust
- Merseyside Commissioning Support Service
- NHS Merseyside
- Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust
- South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust

As well as providing direct services to our Customers, Informatics Merseyside also provides services to wider stakeholders including, Liverpool Women's Foundation Trust, Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust, Liverpool Deanery, Central Operations Merseyside, Mersey Internal Audit Agency and the National Prescribing Centre. Find out more about Informatics Merseyside by visiting our website at: [www.imerseyside.nhs.uk](http://www.imerseyside.nhs.uk)

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