

Innsbruck University Hospital, Austria



Intervention-free softcopy QA
management saves time and money



“Barco’s solution enables simple, sound QA and allows us to save a huge amount of time”.

Pavle Torbica, Quality Assurance, Clinical Diagnostic Radiology Department No. 1, Innsbruck University Hospital

For more than a year, the radiology department of the Innsbruck University Hospital in Austria has been using Barco’s color and grayscale CORONIS® display systems, combined with MEDICAL Pro and MEDICAL Administrator QA software tools, in its PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System).

Physicist Pavle Torbica, who is in charge of the Quality Assurance (QA) in the department, is enthusiastic about the positive impact on his workflow. “Barco’s comprehensive display systems provide optimum support for our daily work”, he says. “With Barco’s MEDICAL Administrator software, I can manage image QA throughout the hospital from my desktop, which saves me a lot of time.”

The Clinical Diagnostic Radiology Department No. 1 of the Innsbruck University Hospital provides a complete range of radiology services: MR, CT, ultrasound, X-ray, angiography and digital mammography, as well as conventional and interventional radiology. A team of 50 radiologists interprets some 300,000 examinations, serving roughly 150,000 patients every year. To ensure top-class diagnoses, Quality Assurance gets absolute priority.

Simple and rapid softcopy QA

In 2003, quality considerations triggered the decision to seek a new display solution. The old CRT displays were no longer up to standard and quality control had become too costly. “It was almost impossible for two staff members to test and maintain the 60 displays that are in place within the prescribed time frame”, states Torbica.

The requirements for the new solution were clearly defined: it had to per-

form rapid and simple QA procedures, comply with DIN 6868-57 regulations, and be able to store all test results. Furthermore, the displays had to be robust and reliable, and compatible with the various modalities.

“We studied the suppliers in the market intensively”, says Torbica. “Efficient Quality Assurance was our most important criteria. Barco was the only company able to meet all our needs and present a complete and top-class solution”, the physicist explains.

A revolutionary concept for Quality Assurance

For Torbica, the most striking advantage of Barco’s solution is the revolutionary softcopy QA management concept.

Barco’s MEDICAL Pro software, combined with the I-GUARD® sensor on each CORONIS display, ensures fully automated QA. “The I-GUARD® sensors continuously supervise the moni-

tors, while the MEDICAL PRO software automatically carries out all adjustments and necessary tests, so a lot of problems can be solved at once”, Torbica says.

“Another advantage of the Barco I-GUARD® solution”, says Torbica, “is the fact that the displays reach the required light intensity immediately after having been switched on.”

“Barco’s software tools provide optimum support for our daily work.”

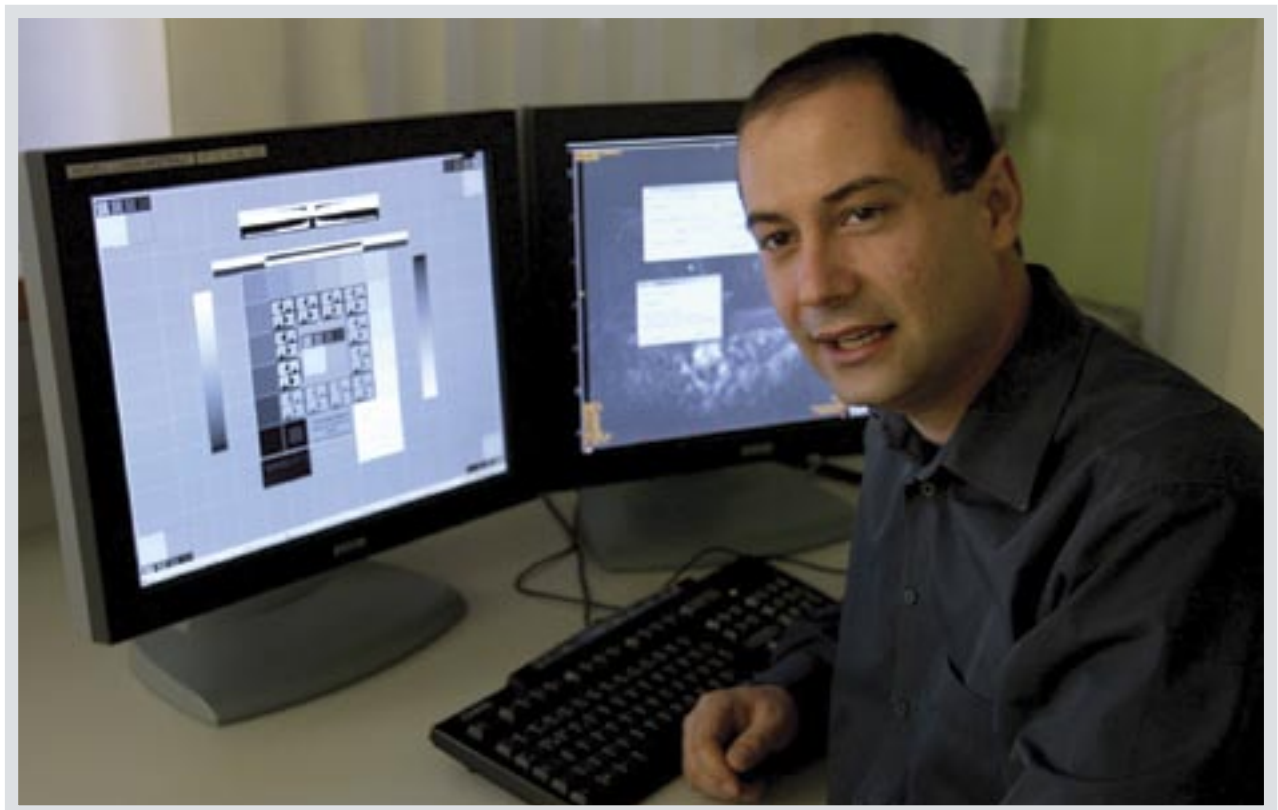
To assist administrators in making display systems comply with the DIN 6868-57 quality standard, Barco has also developed a plug-in that works

with the MEDICAL QA software to ensure continuous diagnostic quality. “We are still trying out the DIN 6868-57 plug-in”, says Torbica, “but our first experiences with this software are very positive.”

While MEDICAL PRO ensures automated QA on each workstation, MEDICAL Administrator offers hospital-wide QA functionality. With the help of this software, Pavle Torbica can manage the image quality of his entire fleet of 60 displays in the department from any remote location. In addition, MEDICAL Administrator is very helpful when scheduling maintenance operations for the display fleet.

Saving time because of automated quality control

“As the MEDICAL PRO software carries out almost all quality-control tests automatically, we only need to conduct a minimum of manual tests to comply with the DIN 6868-57 standard. This reduces the workload and saves a huge amount of time, as less time is needed for measurements or administrative tasks. The protocols, for instance, are automatically generated and filed. Thanks to the I-GUARD® sensor, image QA no longer requires human intervention. A lot of checks can be performed while radiology applications are running, without any interruption”, Torbica continues.



Having worked for a year with the Barco solution, Torbica is enthusiastic: "Quality control has become much simpler than it used to be and the objective measurements ensure an exceptionally high level of quality assurance."

QA expectations fully met

The department's expectations concerning automatic display quality control, including error reporting and automatic storage of all measurement data, have been fully met. The QA system identifies quality issues, reports them and provides solutions.

"QA is an ongoing process. On the one hand, new technologies with new quality features are continuously being marketed. On the other, diagnostic radiology always has new and more challenging demands", says Torbica, as he looks into the future. These developments are certain to encourage even better image quality and more refined diagnostics. "With imaging solutions incorporating advanced tools such as the MEDICAL Pro and MediCal Administrator software, Barco continues to set the standards for QA", he concludes.



Request more information

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