



# **INTEGRATION IS KEY TO PRESENT AND FUTURE AT CH ALÈS-CEVENNES**

**Hydmedia unifies archived documentation, for faster and easier access by doctors and staff**

# “HYDMEDIA OFFERED US A MUCH GREATER HORIZON FOR INTEGRATION THAN THE OTHER DIGITAL ARCHIVING SOLUTIONS.”

**PHILIPPE LAURENT**

The CH Alès-Cevennes is very proud of its innovative use of technology and IT to “improve everyone’s daily life”, from patient, to family, to caregiver, as its website proclaims. This “next generation hospital” was inaugurated in 2011. But the planning and design of its IT systems and infrastructure began many years earlier. Dedalus was a recognized partner even during the planning phase, as its HEXAGONE hospital information system (HIS) has been an integral part of the IT infrastructure since 2003. And in 2012, the hospital went live with the HYDMEDIA\* enterprise content management solution, which has exceeded all expectations in supporting the hospital’s integration goals.

The CH Alès-Cevennes, located in the city of Alès, in the Gard department of the Languedoc-Roussillon region in southern France, is a general hospital that serves 180,000 inhabitants of the region, as well as tourists visiting the area, especially in the summer. The ‘new’ hospital, inaugurated in 2011, includes a main building with 10 surrounding buildings, and 15 exterior sites. With a total of 850 beds, it covers seven different care domains: the medical center, mother-child surgery, acute care, emergency care, medico-technical services, psychiatry and services for the elderly.

is a future-proof hospital IT infrastructure that uses a single VDI (voice, data, image) communication network and maximizes integration. *“All our telephones, including mobile, operate on the IP network. Data, video surveillance, even the TVs in patients’ rooms – they are all concentrated on one network,”* explains Philippe Laurent, who was involved in the IT planning for the new hospital from 2004.

*“During the planning, we really focused on the infrastructure and the technological environments,”* he continues. *“We needed to ensure that we had a foundation that would not only support the current needs of the hospital, but that would allow us to move forward with our technology evolution. We don’t want to have to ask if our infrastructure can support every new project we want to install !”*



## A single, integrated network

Planning the hospital from scratch offered an opportunity to integrate an IT strategy directly into the design. The result, says Philippe Laurent, Chief Technology Officer,

Philippe Laurent is now responsible for this infrastructure – including network, servers and peripherals – as well as the HIS and all of the medical applications. *“We have around 30 of these, and they can be either specific or transversal,”* explains Mr. Laurent.

*“The ‘specific’ applications are, for example, related to the laboratory, the operating room, anesthesia, the emergency unit or medical imaging. ‘Transversal’ applications include the patient record, administrative management – and the archived patient record.”*

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## Expanding capabilities and improving practices

Having achieved the hospital’s infrastructure goals, the focus today, says Philippe Laurent, is on projects that will support the hospital in implementing new capabilities and improving practices. *“Now that all IT is on one network, we want to converge it with the other networks in the hospital, the medical equipment, all of our technology, including imaging equipment, scanners, etc. The goal is to have all of the information and data from this medical equipment integrated in some way so that the doctors, for example, can access their documents at any time, from any place – inside or outside the hospital. And HYDMEDIA is helping us to do that.”*

## A greater horizon for integration

This integratability is why CH Alès-Cevennes originally chose HYDMEDIA for its digital archiving. “It offered us a much greater horizon for integration than the other digital archiving solutions,” says Mr. Laurent. The hospital needed a solution that could integrate its multiple software systems, not just manage the paper archives. HYDMEDIA combines all types of digital information into one information pool.

### Hydmedia

- Facilitates information sharing through integration with and HIS
- Negates the need for paper and film-based documentation
- Reduces physical archiving space
- Speeds information retrieval times
- Reduces costs and increases productivity
- Improves disaster recovery capabilities

## Did you know ?

- CH Alès-Cévennes is the first hospital in the region to be certified 'Haute Qualité Environnemental' (HQE). It uses the latest technologies to promote the principles of human and environmental welfare.
- Technical innovations within the hospital include multimedia terminals in every patient room;
- Baby On Line, which allows mothers to see their premature babies staying in the neonatal ICU from their own rooms; and Automatic Guided Vehicles (AGVs) that automatically transport clean and dirty laundry, meals, garbage, cleaning products and more.
- Next to HYDMEDIA and HEXAGONE, CH Alès-Cévennes also uses Dedalus' HEXALIS laboratory information system (LIS).

Implementing HYDMEDIA was a project that took true partnership between the hospital, Dedalus and the other software companies. *"HYDMEDIA offers excellent integratability, but of course you still have to accomplish the integration with the various software systems,"* Philippe Laurent comments. "First we made HYDMEDIA available to the doctors. Later, we released it to the secretarial staff and the nursing staff. Now most of the personnel have access to it." Learning to use HYDMEDIA was very quick and easy, recalls Mr. Laurent.

*"We created one concise manual about it for pretty much everyone, and they were able to use it immediately. HYDMEDIA didn't require any special training at all."*

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*"For us, HYDMEDIA is a unifier that offers us greater integration, bringing data from our IT infrastructure and HIS systems together with data from our medical applications into a superb database for our doctors and staff."*

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## Dedalus' Contribution

Dedalus worked in partnership with CH Alès-Cevennes and various software providers to integrate HYDMEDIA with the wide range of software systems used by the hospital.



*“But we discovered that the advantages of HYDMEDIA extend even further,”* Philippe Laurent adds. *“In addition to manually or automatically scanning our paper documents, we can integrate documents from our third-party medical applications. This significantly enhances the usability and depth of the overview in the HYDMEDIA archive file. The doctor (or other user) can more easily see all the documents for a patient than was possible before. We’ve been using this functionality for about a year, and we are always looking for new documents that we can integrate into HYDMEDIA.”*

## Looking forward, outside the hospital walls

The hospital has big plans for the future with HYDMEDIA. *“First of all, we are looking for ways to simplify the tasks of the administrative personnel and the nursing staff, who are always in demand! The more we can automate things, the better, and HYDMEDIA will continue to play a big role in this.”*

The hospital also wants to integrate data from external facilities directly into HYDMEDIA.

*“We are working on integrating reports from an external pathology laboratory, which will then automatically go into our digital archive, instead of coming to us in paper copies,”* says Philippe Laurent. In addition, he explains that HYDMEDIA will support the hospital in its communications with the Treasury and the CPAS/social security.

*“We are going to use HYDMEDIA for the optimization of our accounting and for the documentation process for the Treasury and CPAS, which is a requirement for all hospitals in France. And this amounts to an enormous amount of documents !”*

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