Background

Over the last decade, ECRI Institute's Hospital Equipment Control System, HECS4 for Windows, has been the system of choice for many hospitals worldwide, including 40 hospitals in the UK and Ireland, where it is currently the market leader.

ECRI Institute, in partnership with Phoenix Data Systems of Southfield, Michigan, USA, is launching ECRI-AIMS, a new generation of technology management software to replace HECS4. ECRI-AIMS is based on the successful AIMS.NET system marketed by Phoenix Data Systems in North America, and has been designed specifically to meet the needs of European healthcare. Phoenix Data Systems have supplied AIMS software for over twenty years, and it is currently used in over 600 hospitals throughout North America.

ECRI-AIMS Overview

ECRI-AIMS provides the opportunity for a wide range of healthcare facilities to combine and standardise processes and data while maintaining the individual nuances necessary for their operations. The implementation and functionality of ECRI-AIMS can be applied consistently throughout the range of the facilities for general operation including: equipment/asset inventory function, quality control monitoring, work order entry, tracking and reporting.

It is a true web application, enabling the data stored centrally by the hospital in an MS SQLServer database to be accessed simply via a web-browser connected to the hospital intranet. There is no client software to install and no networking issues.

ECRI-AIMS is a modular system. The user selects optional components to add to the base ECRI-AIMS system, creating a system that meets their management style and requirements. The "valid entry" backbone embedded throughout all components creates a database of consistent data for valuable analysis. The "valid entry" requirements on key fields throughout the system require that data be selected from pre-defined choices in the ECRI-AIMS Data Managers. To ease data entry and speed "valid entry" selection, there are lookup tables and Smartfill for each field.

ECRI-AIMS Systems

The base ECRI-AIMS components are available in two systems: Core and CCS. These systems allow for small, medium and large hospital systems to purchase an ECRI-AIMS system with the tools needed to fulfil their requirements. To add more flexibility to meet each site's needs for a tailored system, ECRI-AIMS can be purchased in multi-user configurations supporting 5, 25, 40 or unlimited concurrent users.

- ECRI-AIMS Core provides all the necessary tools and options for a single facility to manage their technology-based assets. The full range of optional components can be added to ECRI-AIMS Core.

- ECRI-AIMS CCS and ECRI-AIMS CCS/Enterprise (multi user only) combine the features in ECRI-AIMS Core with the opportunity for up to five (5) facilities to share one common database with parent/child relationships. (Additional facilities can be added to Enterprise systems.) This common database provides system implementation with total standardisation and normalisation between facilities. It includes system-wide reporting while maintaining separation of data. As an alternative, an additional ECRI-AIMS Database Use License can be purchased; however, it does not facilitate corporate wide standardisation and normalisation of data for analysis across facilities.

ECRI-AIMS Base Components & Features

Based on the successful AIMS.NET system, ECRI-AIMS is very rich in features and functions. Following are just a few of the unique items designed to make your job as a manager or technician easier and more efficient.

Equipment Information

Equipment Information provides you with relevant information to manage equipment maintenance. The list is long. Examples are: equipment history, risk/inclusion, warranty information, manufacturer and model specific details, life cycle costing, contract detail, and pre-assigned maintenance personnel.

Risk/Inclusion Factor for Facility Management
Through ECRI-AIMS Risk/Inclusion Factor, you can establish a risk-based PM prioritisation system. These Factors become the basis that determines which equipment should be included in your equipment management programme and when to schedule PM inspections.

Life-Cycle Costing
Each piece of equipment can be classified by asset category and assigned an estimated useful life and depreciated life.

Duplication
Duplication speeds data entry when adding new equipment. Equipment information and PM's are duplicated in one step. Specific data, as in serial number, cost centre and PM scheduled date can easily be changed.

Data Expansion
Equipment Data Expansion lets you define up to twenty-three fields to meet your specific data needs.

Troubleshooting Guide
This guide is a place for you and your staff to enter unique repair information and technical knowledge about types of equipment.

Preventive Maintenance Scheduling

Preventive Maintenance (PM's) can be scheduled per piece of equipment or globally by equipment type. PM's can be based on defined periods or hours of operation (metered), can be turned on/off seasonally, or have floating or fixed due dates. Also, required parts and materials can be listed on the PM.

Fixed & Floating PM's
You can schedule PM's based on a fixed or floating cycle.

Manufacturer/Model Specific PM's
You can set default PM procedures for specific manufacturer/model combinations.

Managing PM Schedules
- You can set scheduled PM's to be bypassed during the off-season
- You can set a grace period (e.g., end-of-the-month) from the scheduled due date before a PM is "overdue".

Information Services File

Easily manage IS-related information and IS devices associated with an equipment Tag. Enter an equipment Tag and add IS-related information. Then, add IS devices that are associated with the Tag and relevant device information.

Additional Features & Functions

- Ability to create a work order from an equipment record
- Capture physical inventory results with one entry screen.

Work Orders

Work Orders tracks all work requests from PM to repairs. There are many reports showing open work orders, delinquent work orders – by area, individually or other perspectives.

Quick Open/Close
Quick Open/Close shortcuts the process when service has already been performed.

Work Order Notes
Make individual notations about the service performed on a piece of equipment.

Batch Close
The system has the ability to close multiple work orders in one quick process with all appropriate time applied.

Alerts and Previews
This feature alerts you when other open work orders exist for the same equipment control number. Also, you can view and sort all open work orders and preview scheduled work orders.

Labour Productivity

Labour Productivity analyses work order and non-work order activities providing efficiency and productivity per employee. Reports include employee productive and non-productive time, work accountability and efficiency, estimated vs. actual job hours, and forecasts of PM workloads.

Customer Service

Customer Service provides the option to automatically send email confirmations of work requests and completions to the individual entered as the Requester on Work Orders. Included also is a link to a Customer Service Survey that is connected to your ECRI-AIMS system

Data Managers

Data Managers are "internal managers" that ensure all data entry is standardised to your specifications. This creates the data integrity essential to obtaining complete and credible reporting.

Security

Security allows you to create a simple or complex Security System. Access can be controlled by facility, component, file, toolbar function, and even some data fields – with a configuration set to each user logon.

ECRI-AIMS Reports

ECRI-AIMS Reports turn data into information that helps you respond to daily issues and provides the big picture to help make timely decisions. Reports can be arranged easily through a variety of filters, sorts, sub-sorts and date parameters. Additionally, Reports can be created three ways: Detailed for analytical purposes, Summary for management overview, and VIP for an executive summary.

- *Report Macros* let you run routine reports with just "two clicks" – first on the report name and then on
  the chosen macro. *Report Macros* are set once – sorts, filters and preset designated periods
  (e.g., yesterday, last month).
- *Graphs-At-A-Glance* turns your ECRI-AIMS data into easy to view graphical representations.

Custom Report Writing
For those special requests, your ECRI-AIMS data can be accessed through any ODBC compliant program such as Microsoft Access, graphics programs or an ad hoc report writer such as Crystal Reports Professional Edition.

When you need to extract your ECRI-AIMS data to incorporate it into another management report, you can do so by using the Export to Excel function. It's a simple point and click to select the data you want.

ECRI-AIMS Optional Components

ECRI-AIMS Optional Components are designed to optimise every aspect of equipment maintenance. Select from options to help reduce labour costs and heighten labour efficiencies, simplify administrative activities or move maintenance activities toward a paperless system.

Performance & Quality

Performance & Quality lets you identify, track and monitor trends on relevant issues. You can analyse work requests by such things as response actions and failure codes, corrective work order response times, repeat repair occurrences, and the frequency of no-problem found or operator error.

Contracts Management

Contracts Management handles all aspects of service contract management, including tracking vendor field service and performance, and numerous contract cost-to-value analyses.

ECRI-AIMS.PDA

ECRI-AIMS.PDA puts work orders right in the palm of your hand. Using technology in today's PDAs, you can view workloads, open/close work orders, add equipment, perform a physical equipment inventory, and update parts.

EasyNet™ Plus

EasyNet Plus links you to ECRI-AIMS over your intranet. You can create new work orders or check the status of open work orders with the convenience of standard Internet browsers. Equipment users can also view equipment lists, print them or export them to Excel, and view equipment histories and life-cycle information.

Morning News™

Morning News™ runs your Report Macro reports at preset times and then emails them or sends them to a designated printer. Morning News™ also will look for work order-based events on specified equipment, departments or other critical items from a prior day or shift and have the report automatically ready for you in the morning.

Parts Inventory

Parts Inventory tracks in-house parts with purchase order number, part number, description, cost, in-stock and on-order. Parts Inventory tracks parts receipts, adjustments and inventory relief against specific work orders to achieve costing. This module also supports multiple parts stores.

Purchasing

Purchasing automates parts procurement. Purchasing tracks the complete purchasing cycle – from requests to back orders and shows vendor purchase histories. Purchasing can be used separately or integrated with Parts Inventory.

Resource Manager

Resource Manager automates the assignment of personnel to work orders based on combinations of equipment type and/or an individual piece of equipment. With Resource Manager, you can globally reassign work when an employee changes responsibilities, is reclassified, or leaves the department.

- *Mobile Messaging* (auto paging) sends work orders electronically – right from inside ECRI-AIMS to pagers.

Archive

Archive keeps current work orders and equipment records separated from out-dated information. Archive moves user-selected periods of work order records, obsolete equipment and codes out of the current records – but keeps the data in the database for quick viewing and printing.

Advanced PM Scheduling

Advanced PM Scheduling reduces the number of PM's to be performed and the hours required.

- Statistical Preventive Maintenance (SPM) saves time by conducting PM inspections on sample populations of equipment based on a percentage assigned to an equipment group.

- Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF) forecasts the most likely time for a piece of equipment's next failure and creates a PM before the potential failure.

ECRI Institute
European Office
Weltech Centre
Ridgeway
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire, AL7 2AA
United Kingdom

Tel: 01707 831 003
Fax: 01707 393138
email: aims@ecri.org.uk
Web: www.ecri.org.uk