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RADIOLOGY
SOLUTIONS

A real X-ray room on wheels

With a full-scale DX-D 300 X-ray room installed on a large truck, Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale di Siracusa's innovative Mobile Radiology Unit is ready and able to handle both ordinary and extraordinary challenges.



Case study – Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale di Siracusa, Italy

AGFA 

Case study

Interview with Dr. Giuseppe Runza,
Head of Territorial Radiology for ASP Siracusa

Over the past years, the big white truck marked with the Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale di Siracusa logo and “Unità mobile di radiologia” (Mobile Radiology Unit) has become a familiar sight around Sicily, Italy. The Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale di Siracusa (ASP Siracusa) is justly proud of this innovative service. Much more than a small truck fitted with a mobile X-ray system, the ASP Siracusa Mobile Unit is a full-scale direct radiography (DR) X-ray room on wheels. And thanks to the Agfa Radiology Systems U-arm DX-D 300, it offers all the performance, flexibility and quality of a hospital X-ray room, wherever it’s needed.



Maximizing patient comfort and care

“The use of mobile units for services such as diagnostic radiology has long-standing health-and-welfare roots, linked to the need to provide crucial services in areas that might not otherwise be serviced, both in ordinary and extraordinary conditions,” explains Dr. Giuseppe Runza, Head of Territorial Radiology for ASP Siracusa.

As he explains, the general purpose of the truck is to offer specific benefits for patients: “they can do their diagnostic imaging exams as close to home as possible, which minimizes both risks and discomfort.”

Enhanced cooperation to control infectious diseases

But extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, the mobile unit demonstrated how it measured up to the challenge. “The design of the truck, which was commissioned before the pandemic, facilitates the isolation of patients with infectious diseases during screening and follow-up activities. It was thus put into the service of the regional Infectious Disease Department, which used it for chest X-rays of COVID-positive patients. The unit was set up in the parking lot of the Umberto I Hospital in Siracusa (Italy), isolating this potential source of contagion from the rest of the population who needed to access the radiology

department at the hospital,” continues Dr. Runza.

The mobile unit has also been used to screen inmates during a tuberculosis outbreak at a prison, which was critical in avoiding an all-out epidemic at the facility. And it has been used by the Italian military to screen soldiers and immigrants arriving at the Sicilian Maritime Command (Marisicilia), in Augusta, for infectious respiratory pathologies, and to assess their severity.

“The mobile unit has in fact provided an essential service for the community in more than one extraordinary situation,” Dr. Runza acknowledges.



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Dr. Giuseppe Runa

Versatility, mobility and freedom of movement

The ASP Siracusa Mobile Radiology Unit is comprised of a controlled area with a patient table, changing room and WC, as well as a control room with a workstation and high-definition monitor. A mechanical lift provides full accessibility for patients with less mobility. An Agfa Radiology Solutions DR Retrofit supports a reliable mobile imaging workflow outside of the truck, for example, directly in the patient's home.

And at the center of it all is the DX-D 300 direct radiography X-ray solution. Easily installed in a limited space, it requires minimal training and delivers a wide range of images in a short span of time.

“When we put the project for the mobile unit out for tender, our most important criterion was to be able to operate with maximum freedom throughout the province, in even the most difficult to reach areas.” Agfa and its partner answered the tender with a full-service solution, including a truck which had been specially adapted for the DX-D 300.

“The DX-D 300 in the truck offers us good freedom of movement in a small space, excellent image resolution, the ability to reduce dose, a versatile workstation, and – above all – the ability to carry out examinations with maximum patient comfort.”





Smooth workflow, advanced clinical applications

ASP Siracusa is a local health authority counting five public hospitals covering a population of 399,244 people. As a long-term Agfa customer, it is familiar with the benefits not only of the DX-D 300, but also of Agfa's other solutions and services, including the DR 600, DR 800, and mobile DR units.

"We have Agfa DR solutions at every one of our hospitals. The DR 600s keep the imaging workflow smooth and efficient, while meeting the quality and dose reduction needs for patients and staff. The DR 800 rooms, on the other hand, offer high-frequency fluoroscopy generators, integrated auto-switching anti-scatter grids, and advanced clinical applications including full leg/full spine and DSA," Dr. Runza explains.

Furthermore, all 12 of ASP Siracusa's DR 600 and DR 800 X-ray rooms include tomosynthesis. Powered by MUSICA®, digital tomosynthesis automatically delivers 3D reconstructions with optimal contrast and consistent quality across slices and images.

"We then have a range of mobile DR units, which we use in various hospital departments. They offer a comfortable experience for patients and operators, short exposure times, fast assessment of images after exposure, outstanding image quality, and dose

reduction potential. The seamless connectivity with our PACS, HIS/RIS and imagers, as well as the improved flexibility and hygiene control from the wireless detector, round out the advantages for us," he adds.





“Agfa is an excellent partner, and has always offered us exceptional support.”

Dr. Giuseppe Runza

One image is all it takes

For Dr. Runza, a key strength of Agfa’s imaging solutions is the MUSICA image processing software. “MUSICA is cutting-edge and very versatile. It makes image processing simple and intuitive, which speeds up the entire process, and reduces waiting times for our patients. And our doctors and technicians appreciate that you can modify images by highlighting the structures you want to investigate.”

“The combination of Agfa’s software and hardware makes our diagnostic imaging workflow smoother, which enables us to improve departmental productivity and diagnostic confidence. Furthermore, the automatically optimized images allow us to obtain more information, using a lower dosage.”

He concludes, “Agfa is an excellent partner, and has always offered us exceptional support.”

Agfa's contribution



A fully mobile radiology unit

In response to the tender by the ASP Siracusa for a mobile unit, Agfa and its partner delivered a full solution, including a large truck specially adapted for the U-arm DX-D 300. The truck provides a controlled area comprising a control room with a workstation and high-quality monitor; an exam area with a patient table, a Potter Bucky, a mobile DR Retrofit, and the DX-D 300. In addition, there is a changing room and WC for patients, and an access door with a mechanical platform for mobility-impaired patients. This platform can be operated via remote control, which offers additional protection when working with patients with a suspected infectious disease.

Agfa solutions



DX-D 300

- Versatile and compact
- Floor-mounted, U-arm configuration
- Optimal flexibility
- Captures a wide range of studies
- Delivers excellence in image quality
- Easily installed in a limited space
- Quick and easy way to go DR



DR 600

- High-productivity, fully automatic, ceiling-suspended
- Streamlines workflow and increases throughput
- Ideal for busy care environments
- Proven technologies, including ZeroForce™ maneuverability and EasyStitch™ full leg/full spine imaging, enhancing the experience of patients and operators alike
- Available with tomosynthesis



DR 800

- Multi-functional room, performs a full range of radiography and fluoroscopy exams with one investment.
- Dynamic MUSICA® image processing software
- Performance, ease of use and flexibility
- Available with tomosynthesis and DSA
- Enables hospitals and health agencies to get the most from every imaging investment



DR 100e* mobile DR

- Compact, mobile imaging system
- Convenient, comfortable bedside and ICU imaging
- Easy maneuvering, powerful X-ray generator and excellent DR quality



Mobile DR Retrofit

- An easy, cost-effective way to upscale mobile X-ray capability
- Three Wi-fi antennas and a built-in hotspot, for fast, reliable communication
- Wireless detectors, enabling flexibility, efficiency and convenience
- 15 hours of battery autonomy

* DR 100e is not available in the US and Canada.

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