

Brazilian Army

Brazilian Army hospitals step into digital era with Barco displays

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General Jaime Mendes da Costa



By 2014, the Brazilian Army is set to complete its extensive Health Service Revitalization Plan. One of the Plan's key pillars is a thorough overhaul of the Army's healthcare equipment, making the transition from analogue to digital. The Army selected 150 Nio diagnostic display systems, for installation in its 20+ military hospitals located throughout the country.

“State-of-the-art equipment can help us diagnose patients more accurately, while gaining precious time. It will also boost the image of the Army, which may trigger and encourage physicians and medical staff to join our healthcare teams,” said General Jaime Mendes da Costa, Healthcare Director of the Brazilian Army.

BARCO

Visibly yours

Customer:

Industry: Healthcare, Radiology,
Mammography
Website: <http://www.exercito.gov.br>

Challenges and objectives:

Optimize the diagnostic capabilities of
the Brazilian Army Health Service

Barco solution and services:

- 12 Nio 2MP diagnostic display systems
- 72 Nio 3MP diagnostic display systems
- 62 Nio 5MP diagnostic display systems
- MediCal QAWeb

Why Barco

- Most advanced diagnostic display systems
- Best pricing and total cost of ownership
- Speed and diagnostic accuracy



With over 327,710 active-duty troops and officers, Brazil's armed forces are the largest in Latin America. Over the past few years, the Brazilian military has become more involved in civic-action programs, education and healthcare. As a result of this new orientation, it has implemented an ambitious Health Service Revitalization Plan, renewing its entire fleet of healthcare equipment and updating its diagnostic capabilities to the most advanced technology available today.



"The transition from the old analogue systems to new digital technology is a major step," said General Jaime Mendes da Costa, Healthcare Director of the Brazilian Army. "By providing our military hospitals with modern and hi-tech equipment, we can save a lot of lives. State-of-the-art hard- and software allow us to diagnose patients more accurately, while gaining precious time. Moreover, we hope its availability will trigger and encourage physicians and medical staff to come and work for the Army."

Diagnostic accuracy

"In order to improve our services, we needed to increase the speed and accuracy of our diagnoses. Having clearer images in high resolution at our disposal was key to that. When analyzing the market, it became clear to us that the Barco displays are the most advanced medical display systems available today. They clearly help radiologists and other physicians reach a significantly higher level of diagnostic accuracy," General da Costa continued.

Bright images, high reliability

The Brazilian Army set its sights on Barco's Nio product line - a winning combination of innovation and performance. Today, close to 150 Barco displays - 12 Nio 2MP, 72 3MP and 62 5MP diagnostic displays - have been set up.

The Nio 2MP provides an excellent viewing angle and brings high brightness and exceptional crispness to the radiologists' diagnostic reading session. The Backlight Output Stabilization (BLOS) technology guarantees fast power-up, and continuously stabilizes the luminance output of the LCD's backlight over the entire lifetime of the display and beyond. Another distinct asset is Barco's integrated Uniform Luminance Technology (ULT) developed to reduce luminance and color non-uniformities typical of LCDs (usually 25 to 30% non-uniformity behavior), which cause arbitrary patterns that interfere with medical imaging content. ULT ensures consistent brightness across the entire screen, better grayscale representation and, consequently, better visualization of subtle radiographic abnormalities across the entire screen area.

Automated Quality Assurance

Barco's Nio 3MP offers identical benefits, yet takes image quality one step further still. Its higher resolution and increased contrast ratio make the Nio 3MP an ideal platform for detailed analysis of chest, orthopedics, pediatric, complex emergency and trauma cases. The Nio 5MP, from its part, provides complete and uninterrupted diagnostic confidence and high-bright image quality to the hospital's mammography services, thus helping radiologists make quick, accurate and confident diagnoses.

All three diagnostic display types are bundled with MediCal QAWeb for automated DICOM calibration, Quality Assurance, display asset management, problem-solving and reporting. MediCal QA Web guarantees maximum uptime of PACS display systems, which ensures additional cost-savings.

One step closer

Introducing the new Barco diagnostic display systems is only one part of a larger Health Service Revitalization Plan for the Brazilian Army. Yet it is an important step. "By 2014, we will make extended use of information technology, and our entire technological park of health service equipment will be completely modernized. We want to create a national diagnostic center, integrating all the diagnostic departments of the different military hospitals. Barco technology already takes us one step closer to reaching that goal," General da Costa concluded.