

## Press Release

No. 04 / 04 February 2019

Page 1 / 2

# Dräger Welcomes SDC, New Interoperability Standard for Hospitals

IEEE certification supports future security for manufacturers and users

- Service-oriented device connectivity (SDC) unifies medical device communication for streamlined workflows as the new international standard of the IEEE 11073 standard series
- Savings of over \$30 billion per year in the US healthcare system alone are possible through functionally interoperable medical devices<sup>1</sup>
- First SDC-capable Dräger product is planned for 2019

Lübeck – Until now, hospitals have had their own protocols for electronic data traffic, depending on the medical device and manufacturer. Because proprietary transmission methods limit the availability of data, not all important data is available where it is needed. In addition, the administrative effort to integrate different systems and the risk of incorrect data transmission increase.

As a protocol with a standardized nomenclature and self-explanatory data structures, SDC will overcome these limits in the future. Collected data can be shared with other devices and displayed on different screens. Other possibilities of this technology include secure remote control of other medical devices and partial automation of clinical processes to support clinical users. In addition to the seamless networking of the devices, SDC also bridges the gap to hospital communication standards HL7 and FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources). These are mainly used for real-time data processing from the Hospital Information System (HIS) and other data infrastructures such as PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System ) and LIS (Laboratory Information System).

"SDC offers new options for manufacturer-independent data exchange," says Jens Altmann, Head of Segment and Product Management Hospital at Dräger. "In the future, our patient monitors, anesthesia machines, and intensive care ventilators, for example, will be able to exchange information with other devices close to the patient, thereby supporting therapy decisions even more efficiently. As a result, workflows and the treatment of patients can

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<sup>1</sup> Westhealth Institute: The Value Of Medical Device Interoperability, March 2013, p.3/10;  
<https://www.westhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/The-Value-of-Medical-Device-Interoperability.pdf>

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No. 04 / 04 February 2019

Page 2 / 2

be significantly optimized." Dräger is currently testing heterogeneous environments with SDC and intends to launch its first SDC-enabled product in 2019.

### Secure networking in hospitals

The SDC standard specifies how devices can communicate with each other at the application level and exchange application-related information without loss of data quality. Standardized interfaces will facilitate the integration of medical devices into a network in the future. The data transmission is bi-directional, so an SDC-capable device can be a transmitter and receiver of information at the same time. With end-to-end encryption, SDC offers a high degree of security when transferring data.

SDC was primarily developed by representatives of hospitals, science, industry, and other organizations within the framework of a BMBF<sup>2</sup>-funded project, Safe Dynamic Networking in Operating Rooms and Clinics (OR.net). IEEE<sup>3</sup> included SDC in its family of IEEE 11073 standards in 2018. [Since January 2019 all substandards, that are required to apply SDC, have been published.](#)

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<sup>2</sup> Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education and Research)

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers