

Press release 7 June, 2006

Halland County Council signs contract with Carl Lamm for digital dictation

After extensive negotiation, Halland County Council has signed a contract with Carl Lamm for digital dictation. Quality and functionality resulted in the choice of Philips SpeechMike, a program which safely and simply administers digital dictation within the healthcare sector. Approx. 500 users are ready to start using the system, and the target is to implement the solution in all departments. The contract is worth approx. SEK 5 million.

Halland County Council consists of 13 administrative departments, with 35 treatment centres and 2 emergency units. These will all replace their existing analogue dictaphones with digital equipment from Carl Lamm at their own pace. Preparation is already underway for full roll-out at the largest hospital in the region, Länssjukhuset, in Halmstad. There will be a total of 500 users at this time, a number expected to grow.

The contract with Carl Lamm includes supply of the Philips SpeechMike dictation system with accessories, support and service. Instead of cassette tapes, the authority's own network will be used when dictating notes via a personal SpeechMike, which will be connected to a PC and the journal system. Dictation can be made from any PC on the network, and audio files saved on a common server to be picked up by a secretary who will have full access to all dictations. This entails a number of benefits, such as greater confidentiality, better availability and major time-savings. Philips SpeechMike will be integrated with Halland County Council's own journal system, which means that patient information will automatically accompany audio files to the secretaries.

"The sound quality of dictation has improved greatly along with the logistics. Information can be retrieved quite simply at the point it is needed and when it is needed. We can now completely do away with handling cassette tapes which have to be transported, sorted and searched for. This also means that security and confidentiality will be significantly increased," says Gunnar Bengtsson, IT Strategist, Halland County Council.

There are already major time-savings, and Halland County Council believes there is a lot of potential for cost-savings. Feedback from users shows that they are delighted and find that the IT support for digital dictation is easy to use and makes them independent of a fixed location, as dictation can be made and retrieved anywhere.

"The Swedish healthcare industry can make big savings from digitalising journal handling, which is why we are concentrating on opening up this sector. We are delighted to be able to help Halland County Council make the change to a digital solution," says Hans Johansson, Managing Director of Carl Lamm.

Through continual technological development, Carl Lamm's system for dictation and speech processing has been making journal management more efficient within the Swedish healthcare service since the 1930s.

For further details:

Lennart Anderbjuv, AK/Carl Lamm Partner in Halmstad, Sweden, la@carllamppartner.se,

tel: +46 35-17 21 11

Pär Bernström, Product Manager, Carl Lamm, par.bernstrom@carllamm.se, tel: +46 8-734 18 46

Magnus Christerson, Marketing Director, Carl Lamm, magnus.christerson@carllamm.se, tel: +46 8-734 18 68