

CASE STUDY - HEALTHCARE

Healthcare taking a fresh look at IT

There is a real appetite for technology to deliver a transformative power to the health and social care system. Upskilling the NHS workforce is always a long-debated issue and although technology usually takes centre stage in any pioneering innovations, it is not the most important aspect of innovation. People are fundamental to innovation. They are both the drivers and the recipients of its benefits. This means that at every stage of the innovation pathway, from the conception of an idea to its delivery, people should be at the heart of the process. With the 2019 Topal Review concluding that the health service should 'focus on building digital workforce' the life cycle of the technology used within the NHS also needed to be re-evaluated, as not only to be of benefit of the patient but a resource to be used and sold by the Trust, with the value recovered to fund in a sustainable circle of development change and reuse.

The Oxford dictionary quotes "waste" of a material, substance, or by-product eliminated or discarded as no longer useful or required after the completion of a process. Or use or expend carelessly, extravagantly, or to have no purpose. With tonnes of WEEE waste electrical products disposed of across the healthcare sector, managing the long-term strategy for reusable assets is definitely an area of concern.

As a general overview, the healthcare sector has employed various disposal methods for dealing with any surplus WEEE [waste electrical and electronic equipment] often employing a tendering process with a "one size fits all" disposal method for the disposal of a myriad of products. This has defiantly had advantages and disadvantages, but with data control and GDPR riding high on every agenda, rethinking what is actually "waste" or what is an asset" is delivering new opportunities.

Rather than adding muster to the raging war on waste forward-thinking healthcare trusts are getting behind a new and yet incredibly simple idea that is set to revolutionise the way healthcare process surplus tech. Refreshing in its concept and easy to articulate the movement is quite simply to stream waste.

AT A GLANCE

Healthcare trusts are getting behind a new and yet incredibly simple idea that is set to revolutionise the way healthcare process surplus tech.

- Supports the drive towards "Circle Thinking"
- Extending the reuse and restoration of their products.
- Implementing new technology lifecycles using circle concepts that are delivering real revenue values to Trusts.



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Circle inspired purchasing is pushing surplus tech to be a calculated commodity."



A NEW STORY

With fresh eyes, the question was more than just being environmentally compliant but an active and progressive movement towards delivering the best treatments whilst maximising the opportunity to a return on investment. Our NHS Trust clients found that thinking differently about their surplus tech became a clean and profitable way to retire surplus devices. With optimum timescales employed for upgrade and retirement, the intention was to engage streaming driven systems and ethos that were both progressive and regenerative by design in which the reuse and resale of an asset replaces the 'end-of-life' waste concept.

THE BENEFITS ARE ABUNDANT AND CLEAR

There's something great about an idea that is simple and yet revolutionary. The spirit and strength behind technology streaming supports the drive towards "Circle Thinking" which is gaining worldwide momentum. The big guns of tech manufacturing such as Apple and Samsung are already applying forward thinking design to their process that extend the reuse and restoration of their products. This shift towards the development of renewable components helps eliminate the use of toxic chemicals which often impair components ability for reuse.

GROWING THE CIRCLE

Progressive industries are implementing new technology lifecycles using circle concepts that are delivering real revenue values to Trusts. A dirty environmental footprint is damaging to everyone and as consumers or corporates, don't we want the best of everything? Great design, good service, well priced, functional and durable products that can be produced and reused without damaging the planet. Circle inspired purchasing is pushing surplus tech to be a calculated commodity.

BIG QUESTIONS

There are many big questions like; How does the circular economy really compare to the race to improve efficiency and patient services within today's NHS? What are the benefits of a streaming model to businesses and the economy? How can companies and policy makers carry the concept to its breakthrough at scale? Can some of today's fundamental shifts in technology and consumer behaviour be used to quicken the transition?

To answer these questions the European Union and a group of researchers identified success stories of circular business models, to determine what factors enable these business to flourish, and to glean from these examples a better sense of which sectors and products hold the most potential for circularity, how large this potential might be, and what the broader economic impact could look like. If we can get this right, the feedback is that the future doesn't just look rosier, but super-efficient, green and clean.

More than 200 top UK firms and investors have called on the government to deliver a Covid-19 recovery plan that prioritises the environment. They say efforts to repair the economy should support the government's commitment to tackle the climate change crisis.

EGO Technology – Future of reuse.

