

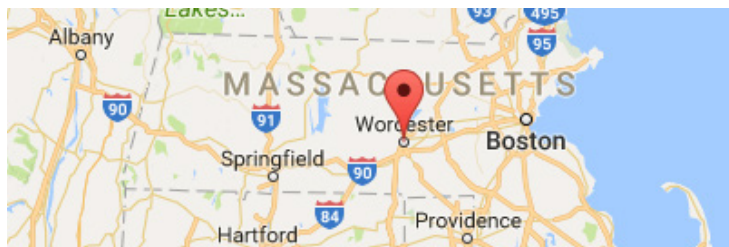


Fulfilling the Promise of Paperless Manufacturing with Mobile Workstations

Cogmedix is a team of talented commercialization specialists bringing OEM medical technology to life. Providing turnkey manufacturing services to a broad range of medical and dental OEM's, Cogmedix delivers new products to market with rigorous quality control and full regulatory compliance.

WORKPLACE

A 65,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in the heart of downtown Worcester, MA, which has recently grown to be a hub of medical research and education. The production floor is approximately 50,000 square feet on two floors.



NEWCASTLE PRODUCTS DEPLOYED

Ten (10) Apex Series ergonomic mobile workstations to hold and power touchscreen LCDs, small printers and scanners.



Apex Series Ergonomic Mobile Workstation with Electronic Height-Adjustment

THE PROCESS CHALLENGE

Cogmedix recently embarked upon a company-wide process improvement initiative including a move to paperless processing. This incorporated the implementation of both a new ERP system, and a new MES system six months later.

Derek Fournier, Program Manager of Cogmedix, explained it this way: "A paper system is a very flexible compliant process, but its downside is how labor intensive it can actually be, especially when you are processing thousands of DHRs (Device History Records) per week."

"With our previous ERP system, technicians were walking to static computer stations to log in and out of work orders. The disruptions would escalate at lunchtime and end of day as lines would tend to form with multiple associates looking to transact their work order. Also, associates who were running higher volume production with multiple work orders in a day, had to remove themselves from the production cell every time a work order was completed and started, certainly not maximizing efficiency."

"Because of medical device manufacturing regulatory requirements, work instructions and the DHR must follow the associate and manufactured product at all stages of production. A corded computer station would result in unplugging and plugging them into the next electrical outlet causing additional inefficiency to the process."

THE NEWCASTLE SOLUTION

To address the unforeseen issues that came up with the paperless process and unexpected downtime and inefficiencies, Cogmedix turned to Newcastle Systems to design a flexible, mobile-powered workstation that eliminated the power cords and allowed for a quick height adjustment to maximize ergonomic comfort for its caring associates. "We have associates that need to sit and stand throughout the day and we also have associates with varying heights," remarked Derek.

The result was the launch of the new **Apex Series Mobile Workstation**. A compact, versatile workstation with an adjustable, ergonomic height range of 30–48" from floor to top shelf to accommodate almost any worker covered by OSHA guidelines. With the touch of a button, an operator can go from standing to sitting in seconds. With an integrated power system, the workstations can move effortlessly down the production line without cords or cable drops, adding a greater level of efficiency by eliminating worker downtime or disruptive equipment shutdowns.

And because of the capacity of the Apex to carry large LCD screens *and* power them over a full shift, technicians now have full-screen access to ERP and other information systems at their fingertips, anywhere on the production floor - no more paper or walking to fixed computer stations.

ADDITIONAL RESULTS

Derek added, "When we rolled out the new mobile powered stations, the positive reception from our associates was immediate. Everyone enjoys them. Now everyone that uses a corded station wants them too."

"For a Total Time to Market Services Company™, flexibility is key as work cells often need to be reconfigured or moved based on our customer's demand. These Apex mobile powered workstations are ideal for this as we can maximize our resources, get cells up and running faster and be more productive using fewer computers, printers and scanners."

"We're also looking forward to even more increased efficiencies and labor savings when we roll out the new MES system this fall."



Workers now have full-screen access to ERP and other information systems.

ABOUT NEWCASTLE SYSTEMS

Newcastle Systems is committed to providing innovative solutions that help make Auto-ID Technology and other hardware truly mobile and information more readily available across an entire enterprise.

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