

## NWD Group wins HIBC Innovation Award 2011

Data Matrix code on all delivery notes of NWD Group allows complete product and “LOT” documentation from supply up to the patient.

*Münster. 20.4.2011* – on the occasion of the 14th HIBC user day "Health Care barcode practice" on 14 April 2011 having taken place in Münster, Germany, the NWD-group got the „HIBC Innovation Award 2011“. The Award was handed over by Heinrich Oehlmann, Technical Director of the European Health Industry Business Communication Council.

As the first wholesaler in the dental sector of healthcare, the NWD Group implemented Data Matrix code on all delivery notes and introduced it to the customers as add on service for beneficial use. This is the first time that a company like the NWD Group offers its customers scanning the delivery papers for complete batch documentation in a second instead of time consuming manual entries. The new method is supporting required tracking & tracing throughout the supply chain up to the patient.



Heinrich Oehlmann presents the HIBC Innovation Award 2011 to Ulrich Schulze-Greiving, head of logistics NWD Group

„Absolutely impressive“, said Oehlmann, „how the NWD team adopted the ideas of the HIBC Working Group to transmit shipment data via delivery paper (called PaperEDI) effectively and how speedy it was implemented. At first NWD tested the efficiency of „PaperEDI“ for goods entry by scanning Data Matrix from suppliers papers, but now, having experienced the benefits, the NWD Group is printing „PaperEDI“ Data Matrix even on each of the outgoing shipment notes – now for the benefit of its

customers as laboratories, dentists, hospitals.

Implementing this method the NWD Group is the first trading company in the sector opening access to same benefits to customers as NWD is gaining itself. Specifically for laboratories and dental practices this is an truly innovative step toward electronic data communication even for smallest enterprises“. In a split of a second a scanner can capture the detailed shipment information out of the Data Matrix and transfer it to the ERP system like the system provided with the NWD Catalogue CD. Delivery date, article numbers, quantities and, above all, the lot numbers and expiration dates enter in the computer system automatically after the scan without time-consuming manual entry and error free.

"The time savings for our customers is enormous", says Mr. Volker Landes, Managing Director of NWD. Errors of manual entries of operators are totally avoided by automatic data capture.

Above all, the Data Matrix code is revolutionized the documentation process in practice and laboratory. The extensive requirements for documentation in the context of quality and hygiene standards now can be satisfied easily without extra effort.

Based on automatic capture products lot number and expiration date can be documented for tracking and tracing purposes from manufacturer to patient. Fulfillment of the legal requirements of Medical Devices safety regulations never before has been achievable as easier and faster.

The Joined HIBC Working Group Barcode & RFID reports once the year at the HIBC User Conference on standard developments with DIN & ISO, their implementations, projects and practices. Target of the members associations with EHIBCC, VDDI, FIDE, SPECTARIS, etc. is it that any one as part of a supply chain (Manufacturers, distributors, hospitals, laboratories and doctors) will have the chance to benefit from bar code achieving error free, say safe processes. "By achieving this objective and being the first in this specific field of health

care the NWD Group is a true pioneer", said Oehlmann. HIBC stands for "Health Industry Bar Code" is also synonymous for the relevant membership association. EHIBCC-D, the representative of the European Health Industry Business Communication Council is primarily supporting the German speaking countries. From here the user support will be provided for the use of "Health Industry Bar Code (HIBC) and for implementation of automatic identification in healthcare in general. EHIBCC developed as an international acting non-profit organization to promote common and global standards for automatic data communication in industry and health care. Whether with barcode, 2D barcode or RFID - HIBC standards today secure product identification, traceability and process safety in conjunction with the relevant ISO standards on a worldwide basis. The objective of the association and its members is it to promote comprehensive methods for tracking and tracing products and processes.

HIBC solutions cover the whole supply chain from manufacturers to trade up to the user areas with laboratories, doctors, clinical practices and hospitals. Activities of the EHIBCC association include standardization of proven as new methods with view on major success factors where efficiency and patient safety are key points.



About 60 people took part with the 14th HIBC Users Day