



Schindler's Intelligent Lifts Now Helping Hospitals

Schindler Group has pioneered state-of-the-art PORT Technology to provide intelligent destination dispatch in Hospitals. It's a system that saves time and money in an overburdened sector through smarter technology that can help hospitals save lives.

When you think about life saving medical advances, you don't necessarily think about hospital transport. Yet, Schindler's ground-breaking PORT Technology has the capability to do just that. PORT is a personal transit management system that intelligently optimizes transport resources for maximum efficiency throughout each site.

The simple goal for a hospital is to move people efficiently from A to B. The challenge is in prioritising those movements, not just for cost efficiencies and sustainability although those are readily achieved with PORT... but for emergency access in a time-critical, on-demand environment. PORT is the only current technology that can provide that. It's truly state-of-the-art and the way of the future.

PORT is the intelligence behind more efficient use of transport resources and provides over-ride capabilities based on the client's requirements. Says Jason Higgins, Schindler's New Business sales, "In a hospital you have staff, patients and visitors moving through the buildings 24/7. That's a huge resource to fund. Prioritisation makes a big difference to operational costs. PORT provides intelligent lift management, ensuring that every journey is as efficient as possible."

"With PORT, you no longer wait for a lift and then choose your floor, potentially stopping at everyone else's choices along the way. Instead, you choose which floor you want before stepping inside a lift. PORT intelligently priorities the most efficient journeys for all passengers. It then tells you which lift to take and efficiently transports you to your destination."

"That provides resource efficiencies straight away, but in a hospital environment it's not just people; it's beds, wheelchairs and equipment and there may be a number of different priorities as to which of them needs to be moved first. PORT provides the access controls that can intelligently inform the system if an orderly is travelling on a priority mission, does or doesn't have a patient in a bed for example and allocate the lift resources accordingly."

Higgins points out, "There's a big difference in the space required to accommodate a bed, or a wheelchair compared to say 10 people. So, PORT understands the parameters and that removes the wasted journey time we typically experience when the lift doors open but there's no room to get in." Says Higgins, "That applies to emergency overrides too. If you have a critical care patient crashing or a surgeon who needs to get to theatre, you don't want people waiting on a lift. PORT is pre-programmed for those types of journeys and we know priority access can change health outcomes for patients."



PORT's intelligence is unrivalled for ease of use and can be retrofitted onto a wide range of existing lift control systems, including non-Schindler installations. Access can be broken down in an unlimited number of ways. Entire floors can be secured dynamically with visiting hours pre-coded. Over-ride access can be provided through key cards, access codes or even QR / colour codes and smart phones so the system's priorities are always securely accessed.

Visitors, staff and patients alike all benefit from improved transportation. "There are two things to understand about efficiencies," says Higgins, "the first is that PORT saves people time; they have more efficient journeys across the board; yes, for emergencies but it is a better experience for everyone. The second is reduced operational costs through more efficient use of energy which translates into significant savings."

The enhanced communication tools are also a real asset in a hospital environment. Says Higgins, "hospitals tend to be fairly stressful environments and having better communication makes it easier for everyone. Clear displays that tell you where to go and how to get there help. PORT provides improved mobility access for vision or hearing impairments and wheelchair access alike. Users can simply push the mobility button for more options including spoken instructions." Higgins adds, "PORT provides clear visual displays, options for auditory instructions, hygienic non-touch call stations and a choice of languages. In our multi-cultural country, that makes a big difference."

PORT even integrates with AGVs (Automated Guided Vehicles) or robots charged with tasks such as moving laundry supplies, meals, secure pharmaceuticals and the like. Says Higgins, "We've seamlessly integrated AGV access in two Australian Hospitals already. The AGV Company takes direct control of the designated lift, sends it to a floor to pick up or drop off, and ensures the lift doesn't respond to other calls while it is in AGV mode."

"Increased automation is going to constantly evolve and we're already ahead of the game. PORT already provides industry-leading advantages in transport management for people and equipment. Hospitals are hugely advantaged as are apartments, commercial buildings, airports, stations and shopping centres. Priority access benefits everyone and we're proud to be able to say that our PORT Technology is far and away, the market leader."

To find out more about PORT Technology and its applications, contact:

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