

The Hague Hosts 18th IHE-Europe Connectathon Week.

Press Release

The cultural and historic city of The Hague, seat of the Dutch parliament, will be hosting the 18th IHE-Europe Connectathon 16-20 April 2018 at the famous Fokker Terminal. It brings this “Connectivity Test Marathon” back to the Netherlands after 13 long years, since it was in Noordwijkerhout in 2005.

The IHE-Europe Connectathon is the centrepiece of the Connectathon Week and is organised by IHE-Europe in cooperation with IHE-Netherlands; with more than 1,000 attendees expected to participate.

The Connectathon provides health IT companies with the opportunity to test their products in a structured environment, using the renowned Gazelle Test Bed, across a variety of domains including IT Infrastructure Radiology, Cardiology, Pathology, Patient Care Devices, Patient Care Coordination, Pharmacy, Laboratory, and, new for 2018, Eye Care, along with those of their peer vendors. Real-world clinical scenarios following IHE Integration Profile specifications are used to ensure the testing environment is as close as possible to what vendors find in the market place. This saves time and money and provides reassurance to the procurement community for market place deployments. Successful testing validation of products against IHE Profiles is recorded on the IHE Connectathon Results matrix. <http://connectathon-results.ihe.net>

Approaching 100 companies will join the Connectathon this year, bringing together more than 120 systems and some 350 participants for a full week of intensive testing. Interoperability of health IT systems across the healthcare spectrum in Europe is extremely important as testified by the several thousand individual transactions verified during the Connectathon testing.

In addition, there will be two important Projectathons, where European / Regional projects will test interoperability of their own real-world scenarios with their chosen vendor string: the Swiss EPR and the German EFA.

In parallel, spanning 17-18 April, the IHE mHealth Plugathon will be showcased, where the Mobile Apps development community can innovate - connecting their Apps with the APIs of health IT product solutions in a standardised way. Likewise API developers can see if their APIs are attractive to the App developing world, see how standards -compliant their services are and improve them on the spot.

The Connectathon Week will also feature the highly-regarded, annual IHE-Europe Symposium on 17 April. The 2018 theme is “Getting the Basics Right, Key Success Factors in Interoperability”. An outstanding international faculty has been assembled with key note presentations on Strategic Updates and Best Practices for Deployment from the Dutch Ministry of Health, EU speakers, clinicians and industry experts in their fields. It also includes the opportunity of a VIP Tour of the Connectathon floor. Full programme details can be found here: https://connectathon.ihe-europe.net/sites/ihe-cat2014.org/files/Flyer%20SYMP_2018.pdf

Commenting on the Connectathon events, Jürgen Brandstätter, Vendor Co-Chair of IHE-Europe, said, “2018 is shaping up to be our best ever Connectathon Week with so many potential highlights. IHE-Europe colleagues have been working very hard along with IHE-Netherlands to ensure it all runs smoothly. We are also grateful to the Dutch Ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport and of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy for their support and in facilitating the comprehensive supporting programme – Weekconnect - focussing on “Secure and Reliable Data Exchange in Healthcare”. The Connectathon itself and the meetings and events in tandem provide an unparalleled networking opportunity for all participants”.

For more information on the IHE-Europe Connectathon Week please go to <http://connectathon.ihe-europe.net> or take a look at the 2018 IHE-Europe Connectathon Whitepaper at <https://www.ihe-europe.net/news/publications>

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About IHE-Europe

The mission of IHE-Europe is to improve patient care by advancing the interoperability of healthcare IT systems and the appropriate sharing of relevant information. Towards that end, IHE-Europe conducts education, testing, demonstrations and other activities promoting the deployment within Europe of systems compliant with the IHE Technical Frameworks developed by IHE International. IHE-Europe also recruits healthcare professionals and solution developers to participate in the development of these specifications and promote their appropriate use in Europe. IHE-Europe interacts with relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations in Europe. It also maintains close contacts with similar initiatives around the world. More information: www.ihe-europe.net

About IHE-Netherlands

IHE-Netherlands is the Dutch branch of the international IHE organisation, founded in 2004 by and for users and suppliers of IT in Dutch healthcare. IHE-Netherlands cooperates with other standardisation organisations in the Netherlands, namely: [GSI Nederland](#), [HL7 Nederland](#), [NEN](#), [Nictiz](#), [RIVM](#) & [SNOMED NRC](#). Participants of IHE Netherlands are healthcare institutions, care / IT suppliers and other national organisations that are involved in care / IT. In the meantime IHE-Netherlands can boast a considerable number of success stories; stories about projects of software implementations using different IHE integration Profiles in multiple domains. More information: www.ihe-nl.org