

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Swisslog Releases Survey Results

Financial issues top list of workplace challenges for hospital personnel

DENVER, Colo. (March 27, 2012) – Swisslog, a leading provider of automated materials transport and medication management solutions for hospitals, today announced that “financial pressure/cost containment” is the most difficult workplace challenge facing hospital personnel in the United States and Canada.

That was the finding from an online survey in which Swisslog asked nurses, pharmacists, lab managers and facility engineers to rank their toughest workplace challenge. Nearly 50 percent of those surveyed reported financial issues as the top challenge. And financial issues topped the list for all four work groups.

While all agreed on their biggest challenge, the different departments had varied viewpoints on their second toughest workplace challenge. Lab managers, for example, cited labor shortages as their second biggest challenge, while pharmacists said patient safety was most worrisome.

Here are some survey highlights:

Nurses cited financial challenges (33%), information technologies (32%) and labor shortages (27%) as their biggest challenges. Learning to do more with less was a common theme among nurses, along with recruiting good people and adopting technologies that improve their efficiency.

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For pharmacists, cost/financial pressure (54%) is clearly their greatest challenge. Patient safety (19%) followed by drug shortages (12%), labor shortages (9%) and drug logistics/transport (7%) round out pharmacists' top five concerns. In response to what they are doing about their challenges, most are focusing on cost reduction, inventory management and patient-safety technologies.

Lab managers struggle with finances (42%), but also cited labor retention/recruitment (22%) and operational measures like turnaround time (20%) as significant workplace issues. In response, most indicated they were remodeling their labs and seeking "lean improvements" by installing technologies and processes that eliminate waste from their workflow.

Most facilities personnel cited cost/financial pressure (56%) as their biggest challenge, followed distantly by keeping current with new technologies (19%). To address these challenges, most are limiting discretionary spending, but implementing lean processes and exploring new technologies that save operational expense.

"We believe the results of our survey demonstrate that our materials transport and medication management products are addressing very real problems for our hospital clients," said Mike Hoganson, president of Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. "Our products are designed to improve operational efficiency and patient safety. Our pneumatic tube systems, autonomous mobile robots, mobile dispensing cabinets, and drug packaging & dispensing systems are a perfect family of solutions for meeting the needs of 21st century healthcare."

Swisslog Healthcare Solutions is the leading supplier of logistics automation solutions for healthcare facilities. Swisslog has installed [automated materials transport](#) and [medication management systems](#) in more than 3,000 hospitals around the world, including more than 2,000 in North America. Swisslog offers total systems design, manufacturing, installation and customer support providing a complete supply chain management approach to the logistics challenges of hospitals. The North American division of Swisslog Healthcare Solutions is based in Denver, CO.

About Swisslog

Swisslog is a global provider of integrated logistics solutions for warehouses, distribution centers and hospitals. Its comprehensive services portfolio ranges from building complex warehouses and distribution centers to implementing Swisslog's own software to intra-company logistics solutions for hospitals.

Swisslog's solutions optimize customers' production, logistics and distribution processes in order to increase flexibility, responsiveness and quality of service while minimizing logistics costs. With years of experience in the development and implementation of integrated logistics solutions, Swisslog provides the expertise that customers in more than 50 countries rely on.

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The logo for Swisslog, featuring the word "swisslog" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are a dark red color, and the "i" in "swiss" has a white dot. The logo is set against a white background.

Headquartered in Buchs/Aarau, Switzerland, Swisslog currently employs over 2,000 staff in about 20 countries worldwide. The group's parent company, Swisslog Holding AG, is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (security number: 1232462, Telekurs: SLOG, Reuters: SLOG.S). For more information, visit www.swisslog.com.

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