

IBA Health aims to increase quality and reduce costs with the help of Rational Software

Sydney, 5 November 2002: IBA Health Limited (ASX: IBA), an Australian-based international supplier of healthcare information systems and e-health services, has selected Rational Software to assist the company with improving its software engineering processes.

Healthcare organisations, such as IBA Health, are driving programs to offer improved patient care and reduced costs. Key to achieving this goal is adopting quality improvement programs and reviewing the IT processes employed.

The company is implementing a range of Rational Software's tools and methodologies to improve the requirements and configuration management stages of the software development lifecycle. By doing so, IBA Health hopes to derive more product scalability, as well as, higher quality and lower costs.

Andrew Morgan, Software Process Manager at IBA Health said: "The company has undergone significant change and expansion over the last two years and our global reach now spans over six countries, including development sites in the UK and Singapore, as well as Australia."

"From an IT perspective, we know that the only way to increase quality of output while reducing cost is through educating our people, promoting team work and unity, considering tool support for all aspects of the software development process and believing that one of the best ways to fire up productivity is through a review of the processes employed."

IBA Health is measuring its software engineering process improvements on the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI). It was developed by the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) and specifically addresses an organisation's process maturity. According to SEI, CMMI places proven practices into a structure that helps companies assess its organisational maturity and process capability, establish priorities for improvement, and guide the implementation of these improvements.

Rational Software is working with IBA Health to help the company achieve CMMI Level 3. This will mean the company has the process and supporting tools in place to develop more proficient people, appropriate risk management, an established framework for project process definition and treats processes as a persistent, evolving asset of an organisation. As part of this initiative IBA Health will be implementing several tools from Rational Software including Rational Unified Process, Rational ClearCase, Rational ClearQuest and Rational RequisitePro.

"This reflects our long term commitment to improve the quality of software development to deliver a better service to our customers. This program will place the company in a unique position to lead Australia in the development of an electronic health record," said Mr Morgan.

“Companies come to Rational when they are faced with the competing pressures of time-to-market and quality-of-product. They know they must invest in software development methodology processes to remain dynamic and stay ahead of their competitors but they are not sure what to do and how to measure it. We work with our customers from beginning to end – providing the right advice and then mentoring them until they achieve a level of process maturity that will meet their business needs today and in the future,” said Scott Frayne, Managing Director of Rational Software Australia.

Rational Software is currently working with a number of other companies in Australia who are implementing capability improvement programs within the framework of CMM or CMMI, these include Motorola and EDS Australia.

About IBA Health

IBA Health Limited is a strong, well-managed Australian listed company providing innovative solutions to the healthcare sector, both domestically and internationally. IBA Health is at the forefront of information systems that contribute to the creation of the Electronic Health Record and provides its systems to public and private hospitals as well as community and primary care organizations worldwide. Established in Australia in 1982, the Health Solutions Division has over 250 Acute healthcare customers worldwide, including leading public hospital groups in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the United Kingdom and the Australia Defence Force where we are providing a secure electronic Health Record across the Defence network.

As an e-health pioneer, IBA Health is a technology leader in the provision of solutions for the electronic communication of healthcare information, which aims to revolutionise the delivery of patient care. IBA Health provides a range of software applications to support the information needs of healthcare institutions, including systems for administration, the management of clinical procedures, decision support, accounting and finance. The company is already delivering products that will form part of the e-health model, such as Electronic Health Record (EHR) functionality, specialist messaging, online remote access, order communication systems, electronic billing and the seamless linking of multi-site health providers on an online, real-time basis.

For more information on IBA Health, please visit the company's website at www.ibatech.com

About Rational Software Corporation

Rational Software provides a software development platform that improves the speed, quality, and predictability of software projects. This integrated, full lifecycle solution combines software engineering best practices, market-leading tools, and professional services. Ninety-eight of the Fortune 100 rely on Rational tools and services to build better software, faster. This open platform is extended by partners who provide more than 500 complementary products and services. Founded in 1981, Rational is one of the world's largest software companies, with revenues of US\$689.8 million in its twelve months ended 31 March 2002, and over 3,500 employees worldwide. Rational is a member of the S&P 500 Index and a component of the Nasdaq-100 Index®. Additional information is available at www.rational.com and www.therationaledge.com, the monthly e-zine for the Rational community.

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