Reading: University software 'to save NHS millions'

Trusts could benefit by £500m thanks to solution developed on campus.

Innovative software jointly developed by the University of Reading has the potential to save the NHS millions of pounds by improving the way it buys everyday supplies.

This week, a National Audit Office report on 61 hospitals in England calculated that through more efficient buying procedures and by using the power of bulk orders, NHS trusts could save at least £500m per year out of their current £4.6 billion consumables expenditure.

The SpendInsight technology has been developed by three coupled Knowledge Transfer Partnership projects with Systems Engineering at Reading, Goldsmiths at the University of London and @UK plc, a leading electronic marketplace provider.

SpendInsight applies Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to enable NHS trusts to efficiently re-order basic supplies based on analysis of what they already use. The technology analyses existing procurement data and reveals areas of overspend, maverick spending and opportunities for making significant cost spending savings. The National Audit Office used @UK plc as consultants in compiling its report.

Dr Richard Mitchell, of the School of Systems Engineering at the University of Reading, said: "Our School has an outstanding record in Knowledge Transfer Projects over 20 years, but this particular three-year project is perhaps the most significant in terms of impact - leading to a potential saving to the NHS of £500 million. The University of Reading was responsible for two of the three parts of the overall project and led to PhD degrees for Reading students Paul Roberts and Matt Brown, supervised by myself, Virginie Ruiz, Slawomir Nasuto and Victor Becerra.

"Although SpendInsight has been used to highlight potentially huge savings in the NHS, its use is more generic and it can be used in national and local government, education and
beyond."

http://www.businessmag.co.uk/News/Technology/Reading--University-software--to-save-NHS-millions.aspx