

Orion Health snaps up Microsoft e-health unit

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New Zealand's largest software exporter Auckland-based Orion Health has purchased Microsoft's hospital information software assets for an undisclosed sum.

The two companies will also work together to provide solutions for the global electronic health market.

Orion Health chief executive Ian McCrae has said the acquisition would see it take on 50 staff.

Orion, which employs more than 400 staff, turned over almost \$100 million last year.

McCrae said the acquisition of Microsoft's software, marketed in Southeast Asia under the name Amalga, would allow Orion to offer a complete solution to a wide range of hospitals and health organisations in Asia Pacific.

"The health sector in a number of Asia Pacific countries is overdue to make the transformative leap to the next generation of systems

which integrate the complete healthcare ecosystem rather than siloing information in individual organizations or facilities."

Orion will also combine its health information exchange and workflow software with Microsoft's data aggregation and analysis software, which would help customers easily view and report on patient data - helping to improve healthcare and reduce costs.

Microsoft health solutions group general manager Nate McLemore said it was committed to improving the delivery and economics of patient care in global and evolving markets.

"Through our joint efforts with e-health leaders like Orion Health, we are addressing the unique needs and challenges of regional healthcare delivery with the right combination of complementary software solutions."