

## Saving a Surgical Practice

The Medisch Centrum Leeuwarden (MCL) (Leeuwarden Medical Center) serves many patients in Friesland, a region in the north west of the Netherlands. Its main facilities include two hospitals in the cities of Leeuwarden and Harlingen. Dr. Bouwe A. Smeding, Ophthalmic Surgeon at the MCL describes how the SurgiCube® has enabled eye surgery to continue at both hospitals, despite the closure of the conventional operating room at Harlingen.

Around 10 years ago, the MCL decided to downsize its operating facilities at the Harlingen hospital, located almost 30km away from the city of Leeuwarden. To enable ophthalmology surgery to continue at the site, the MCL opted to install a SurgiCube® in the hospital. The solution was proposed by the Ophthalmology Team, which now comprises of four specialist consultants and several specialist assistants.

### Saving a Surgery

Surgery at the Harlingen site was mostly carried out by the Ophthalmology Team. Procedures include cataract surgery and eyelid surgery.

“We wanted to continue surgery in both Leeuwarden and Harlingen for the convenience of our patients, but a significant investment was required to keep and upgrade the existing operating facilities there. We needed a cheaper option,” said Dr. Smeding. “A retired colleague from the Team had heard something about the SurgiCube®. We looked into it and visited the Ophthalmologists at the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), who already had a SurgiCube® and loved working with it. We heard all about their positive experiences with the system, even from the Director of their Surgery Department.”

### Worthwhile Investment

Impressed with the technology, the MCL Ophthalmology Team was convinced that the relatively small investment required for the SurgiCube® was worthwhile.

“I am so glad we discovered SurgiCube®. Without it, we would not have been able to continue to do surgery in Harlingen. It is fantastic for us, the department, and especially for our patients,” continued Dr. Smeding.

### Superior Sterility

Despite the Team’s initial reservations about whether the SurgiCube® would involve additional efforts to ensure sterility within the system’s air flow, they have found the sterility of the system is measurably better than a conventional operating room.

“Working within the relatively small space inside the SurgiCube® has taken some getting used to, and there is a little extra work required to ensure a good airflow, particularly in unpacking the surgical table, but our hygiene department have confirmed that the SurgiCube® is more sterile than a conventional OR,” he said. “We are really satisfied with the SurgiCube® and hope to be able to use it for many more years ahead.”

### Quote

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Dr. Bouwe Smeding, Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Medisch Centrum Leeuwarden (MCL)

**Dr. Bouwe A. Smeding**

Drs. Ing. Bouwe A. Smeding graduated in Medicine at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), in the Netherlands, and specialized in Ophthalmology at the Maastricht University Medical Center (MUMC), also in the Netherlands. He has worked as an Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Medisch Centrum Leeuwarden (MCL) (Leeuwarden Medical Center) since April 1, 1991.