While the RFID card reader represents exciting new possibilities for Ascom systems in general, its application within the teleCARE IP system is of particular value. Specifically, its ability to support functionality that improves staff identification in the hospital or elderly care environment.

Nurse call systems often feature nurse presence functions, usually activated by pressing a button located beside the door. In such cases, the system is made aware of which room a nurse is present in. However, one shortcoming of this is the fact that the system can’t pinpoint which nurse is in which room. With the Ascom RFID card reader, this is no longer the case, as it allows information on which individual is in a particular room to be presented.

Each card has a unique identity and as such, each individual is identifiable. Furthermore, a match is made to the card enabling the specific qualifications of the individual to be viewed. In other words, every nurse or doctor on duty can be monitored to a room-specific level of accuracy, as can his or her individual qualifications. This feature can allow system or shift supervisors to quickly define the most effective response to the various types of situation that can occur in this environment. Furthermore, an information monitoring and logging capability also allows for these responses to be retrieved and reviewed, increasing efficiency and ultimately improving patient or resident care.

Access Control

The second enabling application of the Ascom RFID card reader is its ability to be used as an Access Control device. This is enabled through functionality that determines the holder’s level of access to medication stores or other pre-defined rooms within the hospital or care home. Depending on this information, access is permitted or denied through the display of a simple GO / NO-GO LED on the reader and a relay device. This function also allows for door status to be monitored and just like the Nurse Presence ID application, information can be logged and retrieved at a future date. The result is increased system control and accountability as well as improved security.
A secure future investment
The RFID card reader supports Mifare Classic worldwide standard technology. In addition, all information is made available for third part integration (using UNITE), enabling smoother and easier system development and implementation of value adding applications in the future.