By Dr Dobrina Mollova, DTiMA
Dr Dobrina Mollova from Dental Tribune Middle East & Africa interviewed Dr Frank Thiel, Vice President Global Research and Development CAD/CAM and Orthodontics at Dentsply Sirona at the Product Launch & Press Conference 2019 in Frankfurt, Germany on the 1st of February 2019.

Interview: "...for us it is important to improve the day-to-day work in practices and labs..."

Dr Frank Thiel, Vice President Global Research and Development CAD/CAM and Orthodontics at Dentsply Sirona

While analysing, they can now be calculated more precisely and faster than before.
A recent study by Prof. Albert Mehlf from Zurich confirms that Primescan can yield by far the best results with respect to accuracy and precision of digital measurements. With such a high level of accuracy, you can precisely fit restorations without needing to rewrite them.
(2) Scans can be made very quickly with Primescan. In the lower jaws can be scanned in less than one minute, including bite. The data is calculated and rapidly displayed on the monitor in high resolution. Practitioners and patient benefit equally from this speed.
(3) Primescan is very easy to handle and can be quickly learned. Users do not need to follow a prescribed scanning protocol, but can scan intuitively and rescan certain areas easily and quickly. The touch interface makes the software easy to use. Artificial intelligence results in a high level of automation of the individual processes.
(4) There is a very good hygiene solution for Primescan. All surfaces are smooth and easy to clean. Primescan is an intraoral scanner that can be subjected to all necessary hygiene reprocessing (wipe disinfection, hot air sterilisation, high level disinfection) This is made possible by three sieve concepts (stainless steel sieve, stainless steel sieve with disposable window, disposable-sieves).
For this reason, we think that we have an absolutely premium product that really offers more than other intraoral scanners.
Does the new product have the flexibility and freedom to be used in addition to filling material in various dental treatments? What kind of treatments?
You are asking about which indications Primescan is perfect for digital dentistry. We base this on four important points.
(i) A scan made with Primescan is extremely accurate. Up to 1 million 3D data points are captured per second. With optical high-frequency contrast and onlays, and there is also the option of using virtual implant planning with an intraoral scan and the corresponding restoration proposal - you can plan the outcome.
Primescan scans a depth of up to 20 millimeters. In Primescan more than just an intraoral scanner and if you want to use it.
In the past, dentists were justifying in questioning the scanning quality when the patient has quite long crowns or the dentition has exposed root areas. These difficult-to-reach places can easily be captured with Primescan, without the user having to make too much effort with the scanner. This is a real advantage.
Does Primescan fulfill the dream of a precise full arch scan? The study at the University of Zurich I mentioned before showed that Primescan also had the best results with respect to the accuracy of full arch scans. The scan requires no more effort than with partial arch scans.
All processes that use Primescan are validated. Why is that so special?
The entire system has been extended by validated interfaces to external partners. Validation makes the system so special – users are assured that the transmission will be implemented completely and securely. The respective portals can also be reached with just a few clicks.
This is special because most dentists do not want to have to deal inten- sively with interfaces or with data transmission technology in general. They want it to work reliably and at any time. Predictable, reproducible. This is exactly what we offer with our internal interfaces (seam- less) and the validated processes with our partners. In addition, there is still the option of an open STL ex- port.
Are you convinced that Primescan is the starting point for other digital processes in dentistry? Why?
We just touched on this briefly be- fore - the range of indications for 3D intraoral scanners is now wider than ever before. We still see a lot of potential especially in orthodontics and implantology.
The question of conventional ver- sus 3D intraoral scan is a topic that is discussed for more than 30 years. Where are we today?
We also see that some digital impres- sions are at least as good as conven- tional impressions in terms of good clinical results. This has been substantiated in studies. It has never been easier for dentists to choose digital impressions. Therefore, our aim is to develop digital impressions into the preferred process because they have many advantages for every- one involved – for dentists, their partners, and the patients. Discussions with our customers have revealed that, besides the many techni- cal advantages of scanning, it is also a whole lot fun.
What feedback on Primescan have you had from customers regarding user friendliness and hygiene?
The initial feedback from users has made us very optimistic. We have received a lot of compliments for the usability and convenience, which is also experienced by the patients. We have also heard that the hygiene safety of Primescan is perceived very positively.
What might your customers ex- pect from you in the near future regarding the development in the area of digital dentistry?
For digital processes, many things are certainly possible. We addressed monitoring previously. With Primescan, there is no effort required for process monitoring, for example to see whether and how the teeth have moved since the last check and how the gums have changed. All of this can be documented easily and reli- ably.
The second point is artificial intelli- gence. There is a lot of useful data from which to develop solutions, for instance to optimise treatment workflows. We already use learning algorithms in our products today, and there will be even increased even more in the future of digital dentistry. In any event, Pri- nescan is an essential step in this direction.