Straumann Group presents change-effecting innovations

By Dental Tribune International

COLOGNE, Germany: On Wednesday at IDS, the Straumann Group announced further investments and partnerships, and released a stream of new products.

The many new partnerships, investments, and collaborations include the following: French implant manufacturer Anthogyr, a provider of innovative implant and CAD/CAM solutions, German partner MEDIEN-TIK, which now offers high-quality prostheses for value implant brands, Korean company Medit, a global provider of digital dentistry solutions, and ClearCorrect, a developer and producer of high-quality, easy-to-use clear aligners.

In the world of implants, Straumann released a fully tapered implant system, BLX. It is designed for immediate placement and is suitable for all treatment protocols. It optimizes primary stability in all bone classes and simplifies restorative workflows. Together with BLX, an innovative drilling concept called Straumann VeloDrill has been launched—its main advantages being reduced heat generation, high drilling stability and time-savings.

The new, highly aesthetic Straumann SNOW ceramic implant, developed by its partner Z-Systems, is now available and offers the widest range of ceramic implant options, supported by digital workflows and biomaterial solutions.

Planned for release in 2020 is a premium zygomatic implant system for patients with severe maxillary atrophy, and training and education for dentists will be offered, according to Straumann.

New scanners include the Vivao Vivo and a co-branded version of the latest phsas TRIOS 4 intra-oral scanner with fluorescent technology to identify surface caries and xeroradation infrared scanning to detect interproximal caries. Straumann also plans to enter the preventative market.

Further details are available at www.straumann.com.

VITA is the colour expert

By OEMUS MEDIA

Marion Baumgartner, Product Manager of Technician Solution at VITA Zahnfabrik, discusses VITA YZ SOLUTIONS.

Ms Baumgartner, what makes VITA YZ zirconia stand out among all the other zirconia options on the market? With VITA YZ SOLUTIONS, VITA is offering the solution for precise, efficient and true-to-shade zirconia restorations. VITA YZ SOLUTIONS includes zirconia blanks in four degrees of translucency with matched system components for reliable shade reproduction. With VITA YZ SOLUTIONS, a broad spectrum of restorative concepts can be implemented. From the highly individual reconstruction to the solid standard restoration, this system offers many aesthetic options. VITA YZ SOLUTIONS is the system for consistent, accurate, true-to-shade restorations of excellent quality. The system includes liquids for colouring, staining and glazing materials for individualisation, veneering ceramics, and firing units for sintering and staining firings.

What need did VITA identify in the market that led it to develop a product with these qualities? The zirconia market has been growing rapidly over the last ten years. With the development of the first porous VITA YZ T in 2002, VITA started the trend. In retrospect, this first variant was still very opaque and intended primarily as a framework for veneering, hence the demand for more translucent variants. In the meantime, zirconia materials have become so translucent that they can compete with glass ceramics. Owing to the increased translucency, the flexural strength is significantly lower.

This was the requirement for a fourth variant: VITA YZ ST, not quite as translucent, but with higher flexural strength.

How much work went into developing this zirconia? In the development and adjustment of the physical and mechanical properties, VITA relied on long-standing experience in the production of zirconia blanks of our competent process engineers. This allowed us to adjust the materials in physical and mechanical properties in such a way that the customer does not notice any difference during processing. In other words, the machinability is the same for all four materials. This allows the customer to process all materials identically with just one template. The colour adjustment of zirconia is very complex and requires a great deal of experience. Again, we relied on the great experience of our development engineers. All this resulted in a product that is as convincing in its mechanical properties as it is in colour reproduction.

What kinds of things does this zirconia allow laboratories and dentists to do that they couldn’t otherwise? With VITA YZ SOLUTIONS, all kinds of restorations can be made from fully anatomical crowns up to 14 unit anterior and posterior bridges, fully and partially veneered single-tooth restorations and up to 14 unit bridge frameworks in the anterior and posterior regions, single-tooth restorations and up to 14 unit bridges on directly screwed-on implant abutments in the anterior and posterior regions, primary telescopes, inlays, onlays, veneers, partial crowns and tabletops.

What has the initial feedback on the product been? Since the market launch in 2002, customers have been reporting to us very good edge stability and excellent fit after sintering. For the new variants (VITA YZ ST and VITA YZ XT), customers are delighted with the excellent colour match for the VITA classical A1–D shade guide.

How important is the advantage of this zirconia manufactured by the company, whose shade guides are used fairly universally across the profession? VITA is the colour expert. As a result, we probably have the greatest experience in colour setting for a wide range of materials. Therefore, we can rely on many formulas. Our formulas and the knowledge of our development engineers have helped them to develop these colours. Thanks to the successful colour adjustment of the VITA YZ materials, VITA has once again proven that it holds mastery in this area.

"Thanks to the successful colour adjustment of the VITA YZ materials, VITA has once again proven that it holds mastery in this area."
INTERVIEW

Interview: “When you do innovation, you also have to take care of education.”

By Petar Mollov, DTMEA

Mectron S.P.A, based in Italy, has revolutionised the dental surgery world with the development of piezoelectric bone surgery equipment. At the IDS show in Cologne, Germany, the company presented a new generation of prophylaxis devices. Dental Tribune Middle East and Africa representative Petar Mollov interviewed Dr. Massimo Lemetti, CEO at Mectron S.P.A, about the new products launched at IDS and the company plans for the Middle East region.

First of all, Happy Birthday to Mectron and congratulations on this milestone, 40 years!

During your anniversary speech you highlighted the importance of technology an innovation to Mectron and how this has evolved over the years. How has this statement evolved and kept over the years represented by the products that Mectron offers?

Thank you for the birthday wishes. There were no big changes to what we do. Technology and innovation are the drivers of our activities. The goal in simple words is to exploit the existing technologies in order to facilitate the life of the doctors by proposing solutions to the problems they face in their daily activities and thus is for the ultimate benefit of the patients. This has been the main driver of our activities in the past and the future, so no big changes to what and how we do. The big change is related to the way technology evolved, by moving from single visionary inventors towards the structured work of engineers grouped in teams.

You have just mentioned the R&D which is in the DNA of Mectron. How do you sustain and motivate the over 200 employees to wake up every morning with the thought of innovation? What is your spending on R&D and how does it compare to the dental industry average?

In general we are spending approximately 20% of our turnover in R&D on yearly basis, which is about 2 to 3 times the industry’s average. This is a good representation of how important R&D is for us. Motivation of the people, all people involved in the new technologies and in bringing new technologies to the market is something that is mainly coming from inside Mectron. R&D and innovation are tough and tough roads which means a lot of days, months, years of effort, of commitment, of dedication, of passion and only then comes the satisfaction of launching a new product. This satisfaction is lasting only for very few moments because then you have to start with a new project from the beginning. This is the destiny of the people committed to innovation but it is what we like and what we enjoy doing. This is what motivates everyone in Mectron.

Tell us a little bit about how Mectron was formed and the philosophy of its founders.

The history of Mectron is, I would say, the usual way a business is started but still very interesting. Normally, such companies start with an idea shared between friends. That’s what has happened to Mectron, there were two young engineers, Fernando Bianchetti and Domenico Verderelli, who are two friends knowing each other since primary school days, spent in a tiny fishermen village located in the Ligurian Riviera. One day they were discussing the possibilities of what to do in their lives. They had an idea in doing something in the dental and the medical business for benefiting the people. They started a small company the same village where they used to go to school. From there until now, the company has developed and grown day by day, continuously, until reaching what Mectron is today - 200 employees, spread in Italy, US and Germany which are the countries where we have our main offices. We became quite big considering from where we started. We are very thankful to all our clients, doctors, dealers, friends and all the contributors to our voyage.

Mectron has been working on new projects that are being presented at IDS. Could you tell us which projects are these and how would they benefit the dental professionals using them but most importantly the patients? How they impact the dental professionals and the patients?

In general, our mission is to provide useful innovation to our clients, in order to make their lives easier and ultimately benefiting the patient. This is also what is happening with the latest products Mectron has launched. Prophylaxis line, we are launching COMBI touch and the startet which are two devices dedicated to air-polishing and scaling. The second line of products is related to the surgical line, we are launching REX Penetimplant which is the first implant system based on piezoelectric technology. The Prophylaxis line in general is aiming at preventing problems the patients are concerned with the development of problems and dental work are moving towards prevention and of course our effort with the Dental Facial Cosmetics line is just to prevent patients from having problems with their oral health. With regards to how the dentist benefit from our new product lines, our customers can spot the problems that need interventions and thus this will strengthen the patient-dentist relation. With regards to the REX Penetimplant, this is an implant dedicated to solve a specific problem, which is placement in narrow ridges.

How important is the Middle East market for Mectron and what are your expectations for it for the near future?

For Mectron, the Middle East is an important market, and that’s is why we have developed specific organisation for the Middle East. Our regional representative Hossam Ghaly has been appointed to develop the Middle East area. Additionally, we are developing a lot of educational courses in order to promote our technologies and this shows our commitment to stay close to our clients. We are attending many regional events such as the Dental Facial Cosmetic Conference & Exhibition in Dubai which we will be participating in on 08 and 09 November of this year.

Mectron is involved in a lot of educational programmes throughout the globe. What is your strategy when it comes to dental education in the short term?

Education is something that goes with Mectron’s vision and mission parallelly because when you do innovation, you also have to take care of education, so in a certain way education is going along with our philosophy. We have a lot of international courses around the world, especially related to our new product lines.

Could you tell us a bit more about yourself and your journey in the medical and dental field?

I joined Mectron four years ago and it has been an amazing and exciting journey. It is an honor for me to be the Head of this organisation which is composed out of many passionate people.

Thank you very much for this informative and interesting interview.

By Petar Mollov, DTMEA

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INTERVIEW

Mectron celebrates their 40 year anniversary on a boat cruise on the Rhine river in Cologne, Germany

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Dr Massimo Lemetti – CEO of Mectron S.P.A.

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The Mectron Team on IDS 2019. From left to right: Dr. Massimo Lemetti (CEO), Paola Minoia (Marketing), Hossam Ghaly (Area Sales Manager MEA) and Andre Vinholt (Marketing Manager)
PrograPrint: Ivoclar Vivadent presents new 3-D printing system for dental laboratories at IDS 2019

By Ivoclar Vivadent

COLOGNE, Germany: PrograPrint is a new 3-D printing system for use in dental technology. It is integrated into a validated workflow and comprises materials and equipment for printing, cleaning and postcuring. The printing system is a new addition to Ivoclar Vivadent’s digital portfolio and complements the PrograMill milling equipment excellently. It is being showcased at IDS 2019 for the first time.

The highly precise 3-D printer, PrograPrint PR5, is the heart of the system. The automatic material recognition and intuitive operation ensure a reliable process for printing objects. The specially developed homogeneous light processing technology facilitates an even light output. The results have a high level of precision.

The extremely user-friendly printer has been specially designed for dental requirements. For example, it can be used to print models and splints. A notable feature is the specifically developed cartridge system. The cartridges enable easy, contactless handling of the materials. They also protect the materials against polymerisation caused by ambient light during storage. The printed objects are cleaned with the efficient PrograPrint Clean cleaning device. Postcuring is carried out with the universal PrograPrint Cure, which completes the production of the 3-D object.

The new 3-D printer provides a selection of light-cured materials for a wide range of applications. ProArt Print Wax burns out without leaving any residue. This material is particularly suitable for the production of objects to be pressed or cast, such as crowns and wide-span bridges, and for model casting procedures. ProArt Print Model is an opaque beige material which has similar contrast qualities to plaster. This material is suitable for the production of definitive restorations. A race exists between temporary restorations and definitive restorations, in particular for prostheses, in particular for Digital Dentures.

Ivoclar Vivadent is now showcasing an innovative 3-D printing system for dental technicians: PrograPrint.

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Interview: Planmeca hosts daily shows at IDS

By Dental Tribune International

At this year’s IDS, Planmeca is exhibiting a vast range of digital innovations and is hosting a series of shows in a spectacular enclosed 160° area, featuring a large, curved LED screen, to illustrate how its products can improve daily work at the clinic. Internationally renowned lecturers are giving detailed clinical presentations on how to realise the full potential of dental technology. Dental Tribune International had the opportunity to interview Dr Walter Renne, from the Medical University of South Carolina in the US, on the major topics of the shows, current trends in digital dentistry and the Planmeca Romexis software.

Dr Renne, what specific topics are the focus?

The speakers are focusing on the power that the Romexis software has on patient care. The focus is on real-world clinical cases. This comes with open software works synergistically with the platform of innovative Planmeca products, such as the Emerald scanner, Viso CBCT unit and Cero 5 printer to transform patient care. Everything, including surgical guides, smile design, milling and scanning, will be covered.

What are you focusing on in your presentations at IDS?

I am specifically speaking on Romexis Smile Design. When combined with the Cero 5 printer, smile mock-ups can be designed, printed and transferred to the patient in a single appointment. This is thanks to the new Cero 5 printer being one of the fastest in the industry. I can easily scan a complete arch and print the model in under 10 minutes.

What do you consider some of the most central trends in digital dentistry right now?

First, 3-D printing is a major hot topic right now, not just for surgical guides and models, but also for prostheses that are blurring the boundary between temporary restorations and definitive restorations. A race exists for speed, accuracy, ease of use and low cost.

Second, AI—to make our work on software easier, such as the software for the Emerald scanner, which uses AI to eliminate lips and cheeks automatically. Another major time-saver is the automatic model hollow and base for 3-D printing found in the Romexis Model Analyser module.

Last, virtual and augmented reality surgical tools. Planmeca is leading the way with the first virtual reality implant planning and surgical guide software. The company also has a fully integrated augmented reality surgical navigation technology that is built into the light of the dental unit to track movements.

How do you use the Romexis software in your daily dental work?

Romexis is the centre of everything: 2-D and 3-D images, including radiographs, CXT and intraoral scans, are all completely integrated into one centralised location. It powers nearly everything that I do in my practice and is critical to my success as a clinician.