Deming, at the signing ceremony of a new free trade agreement between their countries
New Zealand’s Trade Minister Phil Goff and China’s Minister for Commerce, Chen
announced the signing of an exclu-
sion stated.
will also retain the 40 employees
rights to BioCad’s trademark,
growth."
ways to restore global economic
arrant to convince the world that
economic meltdown.
and the US wanes, while the
demand from Europe
are now facing a prolonged slow-
lines of the forum.
trade between ASEAN na-
tions has grown from US$82 bil-
lion in January 2008 to US$104 billion last year, representing an average
annual growth of 12 per cent and
accounting for a quarter of the
grouping’s total trade.
ASEAN countries have set a
2015 deadline to become a Euro-
pean Union-style economic com-
pany’s Medical Group
announced that, as of 14 November 2008, it has exited the wholesale
selling and marketing division
the fourth quarter of 2008. This
business represented sales for the
Company’s Medical Group of
approximately US$15 mil-
lion in 2008, and Henry Schein
will record a loss from dis-
continued operations of ap-
proximately US$6.1 million (or
US$0.07 per diluted share),
primarily related to the write-
down of intangible assets dur-
ing the fourth quarter of 2008.
The operating results of the
discontinued operation will be
reported separately for all
prior periods.
BASSEL, Switzerland: In
the first nine months of 2008,
Strawmann’s revenue climbed by 18 per cent in l.c. (14 per cent in Swiss Francs)
in CHF 500 million (US$485 million).
Despite the tough economic environment, the
Group achieved double-digit growth in local currencies in
the third quarter and continuing to
outpace the market. The overall
performance was driven by sus-
tained growth in North Amer-
cica, contributions from Strau-
mann’s new generation Bone
Level implant, the SLActive surface technology, and the
CAD/CAM prosthetics busi-
ess, the company said. While
nine-month revenues in the
Asia Pacific region increased by
51 per cent in l.c. (51 per
cent in CHF) to CHF 75 million
(US$60 million), third-quarter
results were impacted by a
reduction in the use of such
operations during the
second quarter of 2008.
More than 70 free-trade
agreements have been con-
ciliated by the ten-member
Association of Southeast Asian
Nations along with China, South
Korea, and Japan, with another
70 or more still being negotiated.
But regional or multilateral parts
are preferred for maximising
trade, minimising distortions, and
relieving the administrative
burden on smaller developing
countries with limited resources.
Nagesh Kumar, director gen-
eral of the Research and Informa-
tion System for Developing Coun-
tries think-tank in India, added
that Asia must seek to boost trade
within the region, to reduce re-
liance on Western countries de-
mand slows and exports dwindle
amid the global economic melt-
down. “To make up for the losses,
Asia needs to find new sources of
demand. Regional economic inte-
gration is the real option to pursue
now with more vigour to enable it
to overcome this crisis,” he told
The Associated Press on the side-
lines of the forum.
“in these troubled times, the
value of new and deeper FTA
models is that they enlarge the
menu to beyond spaghetti and
noodles. They provide logical
reasons, specific opportunities and
productive means for partners to
continue engaging in meaningful cooperation,” he said.
India’s Kumar said a wider
free-trade area incorporating both
Asian giants, China and India,
would be the best option,
even though negotiations be-
come more complex as the num-
er of participating nations in-
creases.

Nobel Biocare acquires
BioCad and signs exclusive
partnership with Optimet

GOTHENBURG, Sweden: No-el Biocare has signed an agree-
ment to buy 100 per cent of Bio-
cad Medical Inc., a leading de-
veloper of computer-aided soft-
ware for prosthetics, for a total
amount of EUR 26 million (US$32.5 million). With the agreement, Nobel will obtain all
rights to BioCad’s trademark,
brand names, innovation pipe-
lne, R&D network, and a facility
in Quebec City, Canada. Nobel
will also retain the 40 employees
from BioCad, a company press release stated.

Recently, the company an-
nounced the signing of an exclu-
sive partnership with Optimet,
Optical Metrology Ltd, Israel, to
offer a new generation of optical
scanners with impressive scan-
ning capabilities.
According to the press re-
lease, Nobel Biocare and BioCad
have developed a solution to
combine the leading BioCad
CAD interface with Nobel Bioc-
care’s CAM mastering software.
The new BioCad software essentially
will take the restoration process
from a computer-assisted design
process to a more computer au-
tomated design process, reduc-
ing and automating much of the
design work done by a lab to
create the digital model for a restora-
tion.
Additional features are an intuitive user interface, new
design solutions for overden-
tures, new design possibilities for
prosthetic materials, crowns, bridges, wax ups and
cut backs. It also comes with a
comprehensive tooth library and
a laser sintering produc-
tion technology. The software,
together with a new optical
scanner, will be launched in
early 2009.
According to company offi-
cials, the new scanners and
products and will also be pro-
duced at all major industry
events early 2009 and
launched thereafter.