Nobel Biocare acquires BioCad and signs exclusive partnership with OptiMet

NOVEMBER, Sweden: Nobel Biocare has signed an agreement to buy 100 percent of BioCad Medical Inc., a leading developer of computer-aided design software for prosthetics, for a total amount of EUR 26 million (US$32.5 million). With the agreement, Nobel will obtain all intellectual property from BioCad, and BioCad will continue as a wholly owned subsidiary of Nobel Biocare.

Recently, the company announced the expansion of an exclusive partnership with OptiMet, a leading provider of computer-aided design software for prosthetics. The software, which is used to create prosthetic designs, will be integrated into Nobel Biocare’s Prosthetic Lab Solutions.

More than 70 free-trade agreements have been concluded 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.

In the current economic situation, the threat of much slower global trade appears to be real,” said Malaysia’s Trade Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. “It is important to concentrating on the world that expanding trade through economic integration is one of the ways to restore global economic growth.”

The operating results of the third quarter of 2008, before extraordinary items, are summarized as follows:

- Full-year sales: CHF 589 million (US$485 million)
- Full-year operating profit: CHF 70 million (US$57 million)
- Full-year profit before extraordinary items: CHF 60 million (US$49 million)
- Full-year profit after extraordinary items: CHF 50 million (US$40 million)

Nobel Biocare has also announced that it has launched the Nobel-Bionet platform, which is a cloud-based system for managing and sharing clinical data. The system will allow dentists to easily access and share patient information, which will help improve patient outcomes.

At the same time, ASEAN and three major Asian economies – China, Japan, and South Korea – are studying an extended, proposed East Asian free-trade agreement. There are also prospects to extend it to include India, Australia, and New Zealand.

Despite concerns over a ‘noodle or spaghetti bowl’ effect due to overlapping trade agreements, Philippines senior trade undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the pact is crucial, as they allow countries to enter into dialogue on contentious trade issues.

“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 become more complex as the number of participating nations increases.

ATLANTIC, New York: Henry Schein Inc. has announced that, as of 10 November 2008, it has exited the wholesale distribution of its Nobel Biocare implant products. The company expressed its commitment to continuing its relationship with Nobel Biocare going forward.

At the same time, Nobel Biocare has announced that it has acquired BioCad Medical Inc., a leading developer of computer-aided design software for prosthetics. The software, which is used to create prosthetic designs, will be integrated into Nobel Biocare’s Prosthetic Lab Solutions.

According to the press release, Nobel Biocare and BioCad have developed a solution to combine the leading BioCad CAD interface with Nobel Biocare’s CAM machinery. The new BioCad software essentially will take the restoration process from a computer-assisted design process to a more computer-automated design process, reducing and automating much of the design work done by a lab to create the digital model for a restoration.

Additional features are an intuitive user interface, new design solutions for overdentures, new design possibilities for dental crowns, bridges, wax ups and cut backs. It also comes with a comprehensive tooth library and a laser sintering production technology. The software, which was a pre-optical scanner, will be launched in early 2009.

According to company officials, additional design parameters and products will also be presented at all major industry shows in early 2009 and launched thereafter.

Dental Tribune to hold Berlin Masters

NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA: Dental Tribune recently announced that Berlin Masters – featuring the annual Roots Summit and Implants Summit – will be held in Berlin on June 28 and 29, 2009. As the cultural hub of modern Europe, new ranks with London, New York and Paris as one of the great cities of the world, Berlin is one of the most important cities in Europe and can cater to the most diverse tastes during the day and certainly provide enough highbrow entertainment to fully justify indulging in the city’s nightlife later. Also ranking among the worldwide top international conference locations, Berlin will be the perfect destination for dentists to enjoy the tradition of the Summit.

Located in the centre of the city, the event will take place in the Hotel Palace Berlin, one of the most renowned hotels in the German capital. Both the MDS and the Roots Summit and Implants Summit, which will run parallel to one another, will feature hands-on training as well as lecture presentations from the top names in dentistry worldwide.

Dental Tribune International is inviting dental professionals to join clinicians from all over the world as they come together and learn about the latest technologies, products and innovations in the fields of endodontics and implantology. Programme details will follow in future issues of Dental Tribune.

If you have any questions about the programme or how to participate, please contact Julia Wehkamp at +1-416-907-9836 or j.wehkamp@dtamerica.com.