Schein Dental expands into Asia
Dental equipment provider also buys US ortho and lab biz

Left: Stanley M. Bergman (DTI/Photo Henry Schein, USA) – Right: View of Bangkok’s business district (DTI/Photo Natapong Panpijit)

CAD/CAM systems market in Japan to gain momentum

TORONTO, Canada: Manufacturers of dental CAD/CAM systems will have to look towards the Far East, as growth in this industry segment in countries like Japan is expected to outpace traditional markets in Europe and North America, a report by Millennium Research Group predicts.

According to the paper released by the Canadian market intelligence provider in July, CAD/CAM markets in Europe will not show improvement before 2014, while Japan will see dramatic growth in this segment owing to under-penetration in dental offices and increasing interest by dentists in investing in the technology. In addition, decreased reimbursement for conventional metal restorations by national health insurance is expected to increase the competitiveness of new materials for manufacturing prosthetics like dental ceramics, the report states.

Despite its recent economic troubles, Japan is currently the largest market for dental CAD/CAM technology from abroad, the field is largely dominated by European and US manufacturers, such as Sirona, Nobel Biocare and 3M ESPE.

A few domestic companies have launched their own systems in recent years, such Kuraray, Noritake Dental’s KATANA system, which is now distributed worldwide.

Millennium Research Group predicts that the global market for dental CAD/CAM will exceed US$540 million by 2016, to constitute over ten per cent of the overall market for dental equipment. With over 60 per cent, chairside systems like intra-oral scanners will have the largest share in this segment, the company said.

The latest acquisition of Accord will not only give his company the opportunity to establish its presence in the fifth largest dental market in Asia, but also serve as a stepping stone for further expansion into South-East Asia.

With this campaign, launched in 2009, the dentists’ organisation aims to facilitate the development and implementation of a new universal approach with regard to caries classification and management. The Dental Tribune International (DTI) will support these efforts through an exclusive media partnership and educational materials produced via the Dental Tribune Study Club, which will be presented for the first time to 190 members of the World Dental Parliament at the upcoming Annual World Dental Congress in Hong Kong.

“With these efforts, Dental Tribune and the FDI will again lead the change in dentistry,” Bergman said in a statement that

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DTI signs new partners in Vietnam and South Korea, sees visit by FDI executive

BERLIN, Germany: The FDI World Dental Federation and DTI have announced the strengthening of their efforts to lead the world to optimal oral health. During the eighth Dental Tribune International Publishers’ Meeting in Berlin, joined by FDI Executive Director Jean-Luc Euselé, they discussed joint strategies to address changes and future challenges in dentistry, including the FDI’s Global Caries Initiative.

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Run by the Charnsethikul family since 1976, Accord currently distributes dental products, including well-known brands from global manufacturers like Shofu, Planmeca and the GC Corporation, to over 5,000 customers in Thailand. Through the acquisition, the family will still retain 25 per cent of its former business, while Henry Schein will hold the remaining 75 per cent, both companies said last week.

Henry Schein maintains other business operations in the Asia Pacific region through affiliates and subsidiaries in Australia (Henry Schein Halas) and New Zealand (Henry Schein Shalfoon). Since last year, the company has also distributed its dental portfolio through Aniam Biomedical to customers in Hong Kong and the People’s Republic of China.

Worldwide, Henry Schein operates in 28 markets with a focus on North America and Western Europe. Last year, the company reported record sales of US$8.5 billion through its medical, dental and veterinary businesses.
Surgical trade between Pakistan and Malaysia increased by agreement

Dental Tribune Asia Pacific

SIALKOT, Pakistan & KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: New sources have reported that dental and surgical instruments provider Care & Cure Surgico from Sialkot in northern Pakistan has recently closed a multimillion-dollar distribution deal with AM Medicare, a supplier of medical and dental products from Kuala Lumpur. Under the agreement, the Malaysian company will market and distribute Care & Cure’s instruments under the new name AM Surgical in the South-East Asian country for the next two years, the reports said.

Founded only two years ago, AM Medicare is currently one of Malaysia’s largest distributors of medical and dental implants. It also sells surgical instruments and hospital equipment and furniture. The deal between the two companies, valued at PKR9 million (US$2.8 million), is considered a major achievement for the Pakistani surgical supplies industry, developed under British rule, that already exports a large quantity of its equipment to developed markets like the US, Japan, Germany and France. According to the former Federal Bureau of Statistics in Islamabad, total exports of surgical equipment amounted to US$280 million in 2011.

Until now, Malaysia has not been a major buyer of medical or dental surgical equipment from Pakistan. Even though the country exported goods worth US$250 million last year to Malaysia, these were mainly in the form of agricultural goods like rice, cotton fibre and fruit.

Total bilateral trade has increased significantly between both countries since a free-trade agreement was signed in 2008.

New ortho planning tool for Romexis

HELSINKI, Finland: The Finnish manufacturer Planmeca has added a new Cephalometric Analysis module to its Romexis software that is intended to bring benefits to orthodontic planning and treatment by providing flexible and easy-to-use features for creating cephalometric analyses and composing superimpositions of 2-D cephalometric images, facial photos and images of the dental arch.

According to the company, the Planmeca Romexis Cephalometric module renders routine analyses fast and easy. An analysis can be performed in minutes and the results are displayed and shared effortlessly, they said. During a treatment process, superimposing patient images from different time points can be also used for follow-up purposes.

The novel concept also offers possibilities for customising the analysis and software properties in order to meet different professional needs and requirements.

Launched in dental markets in Planmeca Romexis is a comprehensive software used by medical and dental professionals for acquiring, viewing and processing 2-D and 3-D images.