Dental product inventor receives A$566,000 grant

By DTI

CANBERRA, Australia: With an ever-growing dental market, innovation and development of new technologies are critical at all levels. In a move that supports that advancement, the Australian government recently awarded an Accelerating Commercialisation Grant worth over A$566,000 to dental product manufacturer HyGenie Australia. Dr Mark Wotherspoon is the inventor of the device that cleans, stores and protects removable oral appliances such as dentures. Speaking about the new boost of funding, Wotherspoon and Managing Director of HyGenie Australia Steve Plakotaris said that it would support the advancement of consumer and clinical trials that will begin in September 2018, with eventual national and international launch of the device set for 2019.

“There is still a lot of work to do and no doubt some challenges lie ahead, however, we have made a good start to becoming a worldwide brand,” Plakotaris said.

Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) CEO Troy Williams said, “ADIA congratulates HyGenie Australia on being awarded this substantial grant from the Australian government in recognition of the innovation and global export potential of this small business.”

The grant is a component of the Australian government’s Entrepreneurs’ Programme, which is designed to help small and medium-sized businesses, as well as entrepreneurs and researchers, to access expert guidance and find the right solutions to commercialise novel products, processes and services.

W&H donates products to world’s highest dental clinic

By DTI

NAMCHE BAZAAR, Nepal: Dental treatment in the Nepalese mountain village of Namche Bazaar is a challenging undertaking. Located at an altitude of 3,440m, the dental clinic is the world’s highest and can only be accessed via a multi-day trekking route or a tiny airfield, making it rather difficult to supply the clinic. Furthermore, most of the local population can barely afford essential dental treatment. In order to support the medical team, W&H has again sent a donation of dental products to the clinic.

As a member of the Dream of Gorakhan project, W&H has been actively involved in construction and development projects in the Nepalese region of Khumbu for several years. In addition to building and supporting a school for approximately 300 children in Gorakhan, supplying the dental clinic in Namche Bazaar is one of the dental technology company’s major concerns.

Since 2011, W&H has been sending products to the remote mountain village. Dentist Dr Nawang Doka was most appreciative of the recent donation of modern equipment. She has been working in the dental clinic in Namche Bazaar for two decades now, treating locals and tourists alike. Over the past ten years, the village has become an important base for trekking tours and expeditions. The dental clinic is the only one in the region and thus an important port of call for those in need of care.

Using W&H’s products, Doka can perform a broad range of treatments. Yet, care is not a matter of course in the world’s highest dental clinic, and delivering materials to the remote mountain village is a great achievement. With the help of Sherpa guides Nawang and Kaji Pasang, who work in Austrian alpine tourism during winter, the donated products could be safely transported to Namche Bazaar.

“W&H recently again supported the world’s highest dental clinic with donations of modern instruments and devices...”

W&H have again supported the world’s highest dental clinic with donations of modern instruments and devices. From left: Ang Nuru, Chairman of the Namche Dental Clinic, Dr Nawang Doka, who is the dentist at the clinic, and Sherpa guide Nawang Pasang. (Photograph: W&H)