Koelnmesse Singapore: Mathias Kuepper assumes management position

By DTI

SINGAPORE: Having shared the management position with Michael Dreyer for an interim period since June 2016, Mathias Kuepper will now assume sole responsibility as Managing Director of Koelnmesse Pte Ltd in Singapore. The Asian subsidiary of German event organiser Koelnmesse was established under Dreyer in 2002 and organises leading dental events IDEM Singapore and the Association of Orthodontists (Singapore) Conference, among others.

Paying tribute to Dreyer’s contribution to the company, Koelnmesse CEO Gerald Böse acknowledged that Dreyer helped launch and sustain a substantial part of Koelnmesse’s internationalisation efforts right from the start and ultimately ensured the success of these efforts. Furthermore, Böse said he was pleased to welcome long-standing staff member Kuepper as the new managing director of the Asia branch.

Kuepper, who is an economic geographer with extensive event and project management experience, has been working for Koelnmesse Singapore since 2002. Having been involved in the strategic business development in the Asian economic region for many years, he is set to focus on the implementation of Koelnmesse events in South East Asia and on the expansion of business activities in the local market.

With the change in staff, Koelnmesse’s centralised management performed by one regional centre for all of Asia will now be replaced with a market-specific decentralised organisational structure that works in close collaboration with the parent company in Cologne, the event organiser announced.

Deal collapses: Straumann decides against investing in MegaGen

By DTI

DAEGU, South Korea/BASEL, Switzerland: Global dental implant manufacturer Straumann has announced that it will no longer be pursuing its plans to invest in or partner with the South Korean implant manufacturer Neodent.

Straumann has maintained a collaborative spirit with MegaGen since 2014, during which time it purchased convertible bonds from MegaGen and announced that it would be exercising its right to convert these bonds into shares to acquire a controlling stake in MegaGen in July last year.

After the announcement, MegaGen disputed the conversion price and calculation procedure, and despite significantly increased offers from Straumann, initiated arbitration under the International Chamber of Commerce rules. This could have taken up to two years, depending on the progress of the arbitration.

“The collaborative spirit of partnership that characterised our relationship disappeared when MegaGen’s owners initiated arbitration. This and the corresponding long delay are not in the interest of either company and together with other recent developments make the business case unattractive,” explained Straumann CEO Marco Gadola.

“Due to the urgent need to expand in the fast-growing non-premium segment in China, India, Russia and Eastern Europe, we have invested in strong partners like Anthogyr, Equinox Medentika and Zinedent—in addition to Neodent. The Straumann Group brand, our shared technology platform and global network offer them considerable leverage and we are very excited about the opportunities that our partnership with them is creating. Strategically, there is no longer a compelling need for a collaboration with MegaGen,” he added.

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**META BIOMED launches EQ-V**

By DTI

HAMAMATSU, Japan. In order to increase visibility for its growing 3-D segment, Japanese manufacturer Roland DG has announced the transfer of its digital businesses, consisting of the development and sales of 3-D milling machines, 3-D printers, engraving machines and photographic impact printers, to a new, wholly-owned subsidiary, DGSHAPE Corporation. The spin-off, which begins operating in April, will be located at the Roland DG headquarters in Hamamatsu.

According to the company, its series of DWX dental milling ma-

chines has become a major driver of growth of Roland’s 3-D business, accounting for 60 per cent of sales in the segment in 2016. In addition, industrial inkjet printer sales accounted for 70 per cent of digital printing business sales in the same period.

Consequently, the company decided to embark on restructuring its dentistry-focused 3-D business by launching it under the new brand of DGSHAPE and transferring it to an autonomous company.

“Spinning the 3-D business off as a separate company would allow the management of DGSHAPE to implement speedy decision-making and business execution,” commented Roland DG President Hidenori Fujioka on the decision to transfer the business to a new subsid.

In addition to Tanabe, Hisashi Bito will serve as Director and Chief Technology Officer, Kouichi Hashimoto as Outside Director, and Toru Kajikawa as Audit and Supervisory Board Member. The executive board will be formally appointed at an extraordinary general meeting in March.

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**META BIOMED**

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Next-generation laser system launched

By DTI

IRVINE, Calif., USA: BIOLASE, a global leader in dental lasers, has announced that its new Waterlase Express all-tissue laser system has received 510(k) clearance for commercial distribution from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The product is now available for sale to dentists in the US, as well as selected international markets in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

“Waterlase Express represents the newest addition to BIOLASE’s Waterlase portfolio of YSGG all-tissue lasers and the fifth-generation laser of the most widely used all-tissue dental laser wavelength. Waterlase Express, which was exhibited for the first time at the Midwinter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society in February, will be unveiled internationally at the International Dental Show in Cologne, Germany, the world’s leading trade show for the dental industry, to be held from March 21 to 25,” explained Dr. Jacqueline Moustakas-Verho, President and CEO of BIOLASE.

“Express will enable significantly higher penetration and adoption of all-tissue laser dentistry worldwide. With all the value of Waterlase technology at nearly one-quarter the size, one-third the weight, and nearly half the US retail price of our market-leading Waterlase iPlus system, we believe Express is the dental laser that is finally ready for the vast majority of dentists around the world, many of whom have waited to integrate our all-tissue laser solutions into their practices.”

3Shape’s new lab scanners help promote fossil research

By DTI

HELSINKI, Finland: Owing to their compact size and precision, Finnish dental manufacturer Planmeca’s scanning systems have not only advanced daily dental practice in recent years, but also helped fossil research to go digital. Visiting the Finnish Museum of Natural History, the company met with prominent researchers to learn how digital technology is used to unlock the past of fossilised teeth and bones.

Back in 2015, Prof. Jukka Jernvall, an evolutionary development biologist researcher at the University of Helsinki, was in need of a suitable device for his latest project, researching the history of Saimaa ringed seals and the development of their teeth. For this, Jernvall was seeking a way to digitally record sets of teeth. However, the imaging tools that were available to him then were slow and their accuracy left much to be desired. Consequently, he contacted Planmeca to request the use of the company’s PlanScan intra-oral scanner for his purposes.

According to Planmeca, the scanner quickly proved itself both fast and accurate, and its compact size made it easy to carry along to any research site. After this successful initial cooperation, the Planmeca Romexis software was fine-tuned at the university for search on the teeth of ringed seals.

Speaking with Planmeca Marketing Communications Specialist Sanna Tolmunen, researcher Dr. Jacqueline Moustakas-Verho explained that teeth are an excellent subject for researchers of evolutionary and developmental biology because, once the teeth have formed, they change shape only by wear. Originally from the US, Moustakas-Verho moved to Finland six years ago to study fossilised teeth. “The University of Helsinki is one of the leading institutions in the world on fossil teeth research. People come here to investigate teeth from all over the world, like France and Japan,” she said.

Among the subjects examined using Planmeca’s 3D imaging devices and software so far to study pre-historic life have been the teeth of pandas, ancient cave bears and polar bears, and even the tiny teeth of mice and ancient vampire bat skulls that are so small and thin that most scanners are unable to process them.

According to the museum’s senior technician, Janne Granroth, most researchers who visit the museum use the Planmeca technology for their projects. “One day we hope to systematically digitise our entire collection. Ideally, we would eventually have an online system where the serial number of every sample would correspond to a digital impression. As this would enable us to share the material with researchers all over the world.”

Planmeca intra-oral scanning systems help promote fossil research

By DTI

CHICAGO, USA: Digital dentistry specialist 3Shape has launched a new line of cost-effective scanners for the dental laboratory. According to the company, the E scanners deliver high-quality images and offer advanced scanning features and precision CAD/CAM workflows, like other 3Shape scanners, but at a more affordable price.

The E scanners feature two megapixel cameras each, Blue LED and multline high-speed scanning for optimal detail capture and accuracy and thus enable laboratories to complete more cases in less time. Moreover, features like 3Shape’s reliable impression scanning, which allows laboratories to scan conventional impressions directly without having to pour a model, and Auto-start, which starts scanning as soon as the model is placed inside the E scanner, save additional time and costs.

3Shape’s new affordable scanners make advanced CAD/CAM accessible to laboratories of all sizes.