**SciCan merges with SycoTec, MICRO-MEGA**

New dental conglomerate announces to strengthen market presence in Asia

Daniel Zimmermann

**NEW YORK, USA/LEIPZIG, Germany:** In one of the largest industry mergers this year, the Canadian-based manufacturer of infection-control products SciCan has announced its amalgamation with the German–French conglomerate SycoTec, MICRO-MEGA. With a combined workforce of 800 staff and offices in Canada, France, Switzerland and Germany, the new company will form one of the ten largest dental groups worldwide. The financial terms of the agreement have not been disclosed.

Company officials said that the merger is not a buy-out and that all three companies will remain independent under one umbrella. Mergers-related downsizing is not intended, but SciCan's German office in Augsburg will be closed and its 25 employees relocated to the future company headquarters in Leutkirch-Aliga, Germany.

SycoTec, which specialises in dental drives and motors, bought the French manufacturer of root-canal instruments MICRO-MEGA in October last year. The former subsidiary of KaVo has been under pressure lately, owing to a decline in demand in local and international dental markets. According to an article in the newspaper Schwäbische Zeitung, orders in early 2009 decreased by 40 per cent, forcing the company to place almost two-thirds of its employees on short-time.

SycoTec CEO Dr Martin Rickett confirmed that the merger would not only help to prevent lay-offs, but also promote further growth. The latest merger with SciCan is intended to complement the current offering of surgical and endodontic instruments with a full range of infection-control products. “We now can offer dentists and doctors a ‘one-stop shop’, from instruments to motors to the entire reprocessing system,” he said.

Both companies intend to make use of each other’s existing distribution networks in North America and Europe and strengthen their market presence in Asia.

Dr Rickett, who will lead the new company with SciCan’s current Chairman Arthur Zwogben-berger, added that most of the positions within the organisation will be filled with existing personnel to avoid unnecessary costs. Although the name for the new organisation is still under discussion, the merger is expected to become legally effective within the next few months, he said.

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**Straumann goes fully digital at Midwinter Meeting**

Sierra Rendon

**CHICAGO, USA/LEIPZIG, Germany:** Straumann is advancing its position in the dental market as a provider of comprehensive digital implant and restorative solutions. At the Chicago Midwinter Meeting, which was held 22-27 February, the company revealed its new digital platform Straumann Digital Solutions. The new brand combines computer-guided surgery, intra-oral imaging and CAD/CAM pros-

**Medicom introduces next generation of Nitrile gloves**

From news reports

**MTWOUDENBERG, The Netherlands:** Allergic reactions have become a major health concern for both patients and healthcare workers who frequently use latex gloves. In addition, every time a health-care worker takes off his or her examination gloves, washes their hands and then puts on another pair of gloves, they become predominantly vulnerable to dry, rough, irritated and cracked skin. Medicom says to have found a solution to both problems by introducing the SafeTouch Rejuvenate Nitrile Plus to all major markets.

The SafeTouch Rejuvenate Nitrile Plus, which complements the company’s extensive medical glove offering, is enriched with lanolin, vitamin E to nourish, moisturize, soothe the skin.

According to Medicom, the gloves are soft and durable while offering excellent tear strength and puncture resistance. The gloves are also fully textured to ensure enhanced grip in wet conditions. Improved ergonomics “latex like” feel allows precise fit and increased freedom of movement reducing hand fatigue, they added.

(Edited by Daniel Zimmermann, DTI)

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**GlaxoSmithKline removes zinc from denture creams**

Daniel Zimmermann

**LEIPZIG, Germany:** Owing to consumer reports alleging neurological complications with long-term use, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has announced that zinc will be removed from its denture cream brands worldwide. The British manufacturer also warned consumers of the potential health risks associated with long-term, excessive use of zinc-containing denture adhesives but said that these products remain safe to use as directed on the product label.

Zinc was originally added to denture adhesives to improve its adhesive strength. Recent studies, however, have demonstrated that excess amounts of the metal can accumulate over time, resulting in paralysy of some patients. Health experts recommend 8 milligrams of zinc per day for women and 11 milligrams for men. Denture creams contain up to 58 milligrams of zinc per gram.

Dr Howard Marsh, Chief Medical Officer at GSK Consumer Healthcare, commented, “The safety of our consumers is our primary concern. We are taking this action because we have become aware of potential health problems associated with the long-term, excessive use of our zinc-containing denture adhesive products. These reports are rare, given that several million people worldwide are users of the products.”

He said that patients who use denture creams on a daily basis should consult their doctor and switch to a zinc-free alternative. The use of too much adhesive might indicate ill-fitting dentures.

GSK will effect transition to zinc-free versions of all affected variants worldwide up to April this year. The label zinc-free will be clearly displayed on the new packaging, the company told DTI.

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