Biolase launches first laser for root canal disinfection in Asia

IRVINE: Biolase Technology has announced the launch of a new, minimally invasive root canal therapy system, which a dental expert termed as "walking on the edge of innovation". The EndoLase RFT, which is available for immediate delivery in all major markets including Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, is the very first complete laser treatment for root canal therapy, the company says.

The device includes two newly designed, single-use laser tips, one for anterior and another for posterior teeth, and the procedure protocol for use with the company's own Waterlase MD YSGG laser system. The newly designed endoTips, which are approximately two-to-three times the width of a human hair and very flexible, are shaped so the laser energy is emitted in a radial pattern, allowing the dentist to debride and disinfect the root cavity while protecting and preserving both structure.

According to the company, another key element of the therapy is that the disinfection procedure can be done in only two to three minutes, compared to the 20-30 minutes required in traditional chemical treatments using sodium hypochlorite that have been performed since the 1950s.

"The effectiveness of this treatment lends itself to improving the way that we perform root canal therapy," Dr Ray Stevens from the Department of Endodontontology, at Temple's Kornberg School of Dentistry, USA, said. He added that the research results the EndoLase RFT is based on were of "great significance" for several reasons.

"Bacteria are known to be highly resistant to other disinfections currently used in root canal therapy and our research demonstrates that the disinfection capability of the laser is effective at a distance into the dentin surrounding the canal, overcoming some accessibility problems for conventional treatment methods. Therefore, a high level of disinfection can be achieved in minutes, saving both the patient and dentist considerable time during endodontic treatment," he added.

NTI-TSS signs agreement with Singapore’s DMA

Ambassador Herbold joined breakfast meeting at IDEM 2008

SINGAPORE: The US manufacturer NTI-TSS has signed an exclusive representative partner- ship agreement with Dental Agency Marketing (DMA), a sales and consultant company based in Singapore. Through the agreement, DMA will be marketing NTI-TSS approved Tension Suppression System in the city state as well as neighbouring countries like Malaysia and Vietnam.

The meeting was also joined by the US Ambassador to Singapore, Patricia, L. Herbold, who welcomed all US companies to IDEM 2008. She praised Singapore as the health care hub for the region that constantly attracts foreign patients seeking dental treatment in the country.

"Your participation shows that you recognize Singapore’s regional reach," said Herbold. "IDEM is an ideal platform from which to expand business opportunities into Asia's growing markets.

With a total of 45 exhibitors at IDEM, the United States was one of the biggest country groups after Germany, though it has a larger share of Singapore's dental equipment import market. According to figures from the US Commercial Service, dental manufacturers from the United States exported more than US$27 million worth of products last year.

Exports have also been rising each year for the last few years. "Singapore is the easiest market to do business in Asia in terms of approval and receptivity to new products," said Bob Weber, vice president Worldwide Sales and Marketing of NTI-TSS. "That’s why we chose to enter the agreement with a company from here."

Can you give us an idea of the numbers of Australian dental equipment products that go to China if the market opens up?

DTI: Mr Campbell, China and Australia are in negotiations over a free-trade agreement. What consequences will such a pact have on the Australian dental industry?

Duncan Campbell: Chinese products are constantly coming into Australia, but I do not believe that such an agreement would have a big impact on the country’s dental market because all products have to meet the standards for registration with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

DT: Mr Campbell, China and Australia are in negotiations over a free-trade agreement. What consequences will such a pact have on the Australian dental industry?

Duncan Campbell: Chinese products are constantly coming into Australia, but I do not believe that such an agreement would have a big impact on the country’s dental market because all products have to meet the standards for registration with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Can you give us an idea of the numbers of Australian dental equipment products that go to China if the market opens up?

DTI: Mr Campbell, China and Australia are in negotiations over a free-trade agreement. What consequences will such a pact have on the Australian dental industry?

Duncan Campbell: Chinese products are constantly coming into Australia, but I do not believe that such an agreement would have a big impact on the country’s dental market because all products have to meet the standards for registration with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Can you give us an idea of the numbers of Australian dental equipment products that go to China if the market opens up?

DTI: Mr Campbell, China and Australia are in negotiations over a free-trade agreement. What consequences will such a pact have on the Australian dental industry?

Duncan Campbell: Chinese products are constantly coming into Australia, but I do not believe that such an agreement would have a big impact on the country’s dental market because all products have to meet the standards for registration with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Can you give us an idea of the numbers of Australian dental equipment products that go to China if the market opens up?