The D500 scanner series from 3Shape has been bundled with the company’s Dental System Standard software. According to the Danish manufacturer, the package provides a range of scanning and designing tools that dental labs need for entry to CAD/CAM for all the basic dental indications. This includes 3Shape’s flexible Sculpt Tools, the new telescope design workflow, 3Shape Communicate and the TRIOS Inbox, which connects the lab directly to the dentist using TRIOS digital impression taking.

The software is upgradable to Dental System Premium, which covers a number of additional indications. It can also be extended with the company’s wide range of add-on modules such as Adaptive Impression Scanning, the company said. The D500 5.1 scanner series has been developed for use in small to medium-sized labs that are looking for an easy and fast entry into digital processing. The compact device is built on 3Shape’s market-proven scanning technologies, including the three-axis motion system for complete capture of impressions, deep inlays and full undercuts.

3Shape offers different pricing models for the D500 bundle to meet the requirements of any lab in any market. Lab professionals are advised to contact their local 3Shape reseller for pricing information.

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**Equity fund acquires Aussie lab biz**

**SYDNEY, Australia:** Southern Cross Dental Laboratories is seeking new growth opportunities in the Pacific and European markets with a deal that will leave private equity firm Ironbridge with a 60 per cent majority stake in the Australian company. The major transaction has a reported value of A$95 million (US$93.4 million) and is Ironbridge’s first investment in the dental industry.

The acquisition is also the closing investment in Ironbridge’s second investment fund, worth A$1 billion, through which the firm has already acquired a waste disposal business and service provider to the offshore gas and oil industry. In addition, the company has stakes in the private health care market, including hospital operations and pharmaceuticals.

Founded by Dr David Penn, a dentist and developer of dental appliances such as the Penn Composite Stent, Southern Cross currently provides laboratory services (including crowns, bridges and invisible braces) to dentists in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and the UK. It also offers courses on dental procedures, including Invisalign and intra-oral scanning. In its home market, Southern Cross is estimated to have a market share of almost 30 per cent.

Penn told the *Australian Financial Review* that he will be leading the new holding together with Ironbridge’s Chief Executive Neil Broekhuizen. He said that, while Ironbridge will have a 40 per cent stake in Southern Cross’s previous business in Europe, it will be fully responsible for operations in Australia and New Zealand.

“We are growing nicely and there are some incredible opportunities,” Dr Penn was quoted as saying. “It was time to bring in a partner to help take the company to its next stage of growth.” Southern Cross’s business has grown by 20 per cent a year lately, according to Penn.