The Finnish company Planmeca Oy, one of the world’s leading dental equipment manufacturers, announces its donation of a Planmeca Compact i dental unit along with a Planmeca ProMax 3D s imaging unit to the temporary dental clinic that is being set up by the Japanese government and Japan Dental Association in the tsunami region.

“We found out that there are temporary dental clinics to be established in Tohoku region with the support of Japanese government. We would like to do our share in contributing to the rebuilding efforts of this tsunami-ridden region. With these dental devices modern, high-quality dental care become available for people in the crisis area,” says Mr. Heikki Kyöstilä, the president of Planmeca Oy.

The design of the Planmeca Compact i dental unit has been strongly steered by the importance of ergonomics and unpromised safety of the dental team as well as highest level of hygiene. There are over 25 000 Planmeca Compact i dental unit installations and users around the world.

Planmeca is the market leader in dental imaging devices – panoramic, intraoral and 3D imaging units – in the world. The Planmeca ProMax 3D s digital imaging unit is designed to obtain complete information on patient anatomy in the minutest detail. The unit complies with a multitude of diagnostic requirements: those of endodontics, periodontics, orthodontics, implantology, dental and maxillofacial surgery, and TMJ analysis. Planmeca ProMax 3D s unit is ideal for imaging with a smaller field of view: the imaging size is optimal for e.g. single implant and wisdom tooth cases, as well as for implant surgery and orthodontic treatment. “All Planmeca imaging units comply with the best practices of dentistry. Pulsed X-ray of 3D units, together with the short rotation scan, virtually eliminates artifacts, contributing to outstanding image quality. Planmeca’s patented, computer-controlled SCARA (Selectively Compliant Articulated Robot Arm) technology allows a variety of imaging programs,” states Mr. Kyöstilä.

The announcement of this sizeable donation made in cooperation with Planmeca’s distributor in Japan, the GC Corporation, at the 18th International Congress of DentoMaxillofacial Radiology in Hiroshima 26–28 May, 2011. The temporary dental clinic is expected to be set up in Tohoku region in June.
Glaxo Gets A Poligrip: Pays $120M To Settle Suits

Over the past nine months, GlaxoSmithKline has paid at least $120 million to resolve more than 100 lawsuits claiming some of its Poligrip products contained zinc. The lawsuits allege the drugmaker failed to warn consumers about zinc-related health risks.

A 2008 study in Neurology found that dental creams may be the source of “excess zinc” in patients. High doses of zinc, the study said, cause copper deficiency, which has been linked to nerve damage for about a decade. The study indicated regular use of large amounts of adhesive provided several times the recommended daily allowance of zinc.

Plaintiff attorneys have argued there was no warning for people who apply excessive denture cream to hold ill-fitting dentures, and this can cause problems as severe as a loss of feeling in the limbs. Lawsuits have also been filed against Procter & Gamble, which sells Fixodent.

Brain cancer warning over mobiles

Mobile phone users could be increasing their chances of developing brain cancer, experts have warned. Scientists for the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said radiofrequency electromagnetic fields associated with mobile handsets potentially increase the risk of glioma, a malignant type of the disease.

Following a week-long IARC working group meeting in Lyon, France, 51 scientists from 14 countries classified the fields as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2B).

The agency, which is part of the World Health Organisation, said there are around five billion mobile phone subscriptions around the world, and the number is growing, particularly among young adults and children.

Its classification of the radiofrequency electromagnetic fields to Group 2B puts them below the higher risk levels of Group 1 (“carcinogenic to humans”) and Group 2A (“probably carcinogenic to humans”).

Jonathan Samet, chairman of the working group, said: “The evidence, while still accumulating, is strong enough to support a conclusion and the 2B classification.”

The scientist, from the University of Southern California, added: “The conclusion means that there could be some risk, and therefore we need to keep a close watch for a link between cell phones and cancer risk.”

IARC director Christopher Wild said: “Given the potential consequences for public health of this classification and findings, it is important that additional research be conducted into the long-term, heavy use of mobile phones.

“Pending the availability of such information, it is important to take pragmatic measures to reduce exposure, such as hands-free devices or texting.”

The international working group reached its conclusion after discussing and evaluating available literature on radiofrequency electromagnetic fields and exposure to wireless telephones.